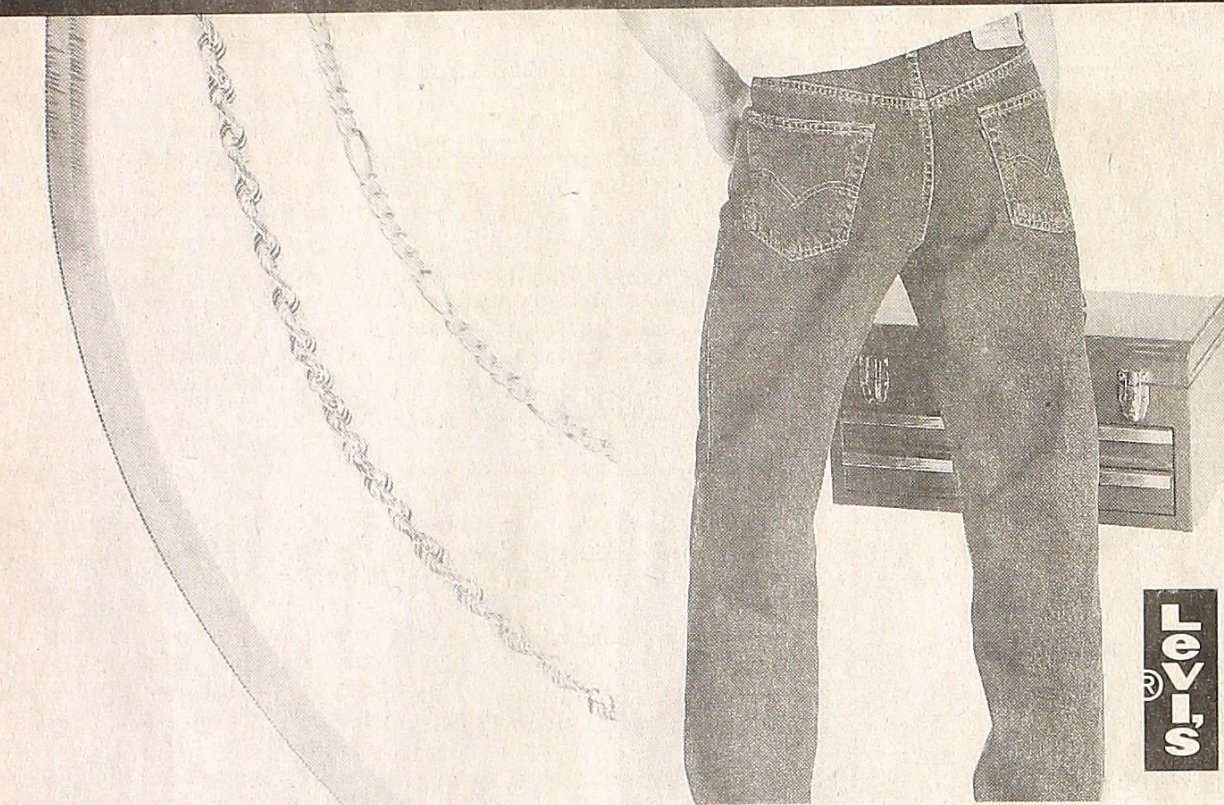


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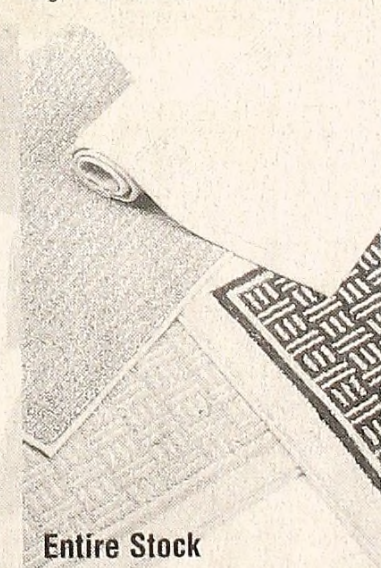
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FAMILY ROOM:

My husband was transferred

By KAREN MEIER
MCN Special Writer

Happy New Year to you!! Wow! 1999! It boggles my mind -- all those nines to write out, like an odometer ready to turn over, so close to 2000, and then there was that big, big blizzard, the biggest in years, to forever mark the very beginning of 1999, and such unexplored horizons stretching out before us!

1999. It's all quite exciting, don't you think? And a bit scary too. But scary, exciting - it's here! And if that's not enough, here in the Meier household, things are changing fast in '99. FAST!! And changing BIG! So fast and big, in fact, I can hardly keep my wits. We have big news here, news I never thought in a million, billion years we'd have. We're such a big family after all! But it's happened.

Ron's been transferred. We have to move away. To another state, another time zone, another house, another family room. But even though the physical location of my family room is moving, this Family Room, this column will stay put. If that's okay with the powers that be. Because when

you think about it, a family room is a family room no matter where it is. The adventures, the heart, the soul, the mishaps, the triumphs, they will all be there whether the family room is here or there, or in the front of a house or back or in the middle of it, wherever. The family room abides.

So let me tell you a bit about this big and fast news. It all blew in quite suddenly really, somewhat like the blizzard of '99, only it didn't all start in '99, it started at the way end of '98, just a little bit ago. GM, as you may well know, is seriously reorganizing, and my husband Ron works for GM. His office is in the Detroit headquarters, which is located in the Renaissance Center in Detroit right along the banks of the Detroit River. As a matter of fact, you can see Canada from his office. At any rate, that's always been a nearly-30 mile "hike" for him each morning to get to his office. And then of course a nearly-30 mile "hike" back home at the end of the day. I mention this because this is all going to change drastically when the "relocation" occurs; instead of 30, chop off the zero, it's going to be 3 miles for him from our new home

to his new office. And that's just one of the drastic changes involved with this relocation.

"Relocation." Sounds more calm, less jolting, less-up-heavily than moving away. "Ron's been relocated," as opposed to, "we're moving away." Sigh. Okay, anyway. Where was I?

Oh, yes. Reorganizing at GM. Ron was being considered for relocating, "moving away," to one of the following U.S. cities: Los Angeles (egads, yikes, furthest west I've ever been is North Dakota to visit Ron's relatives; the most smog I've ever encountered is when the toaster wouldn't give up on a piece of bread and made a big smoggy, smoky cloud in my kitchen last March), Dallas, Atlanta, New York City, and Chicago. The first three, L.A., Dallas, and Atlanta, were soon out of the running for one reason or another. But the Big Apple and the Windy City were distinct possibilities, with New York City being the most distinct, up until the day Christmas holiday school vacation began a couple weeks ago.

New York City? Yes, New York City. Definitely an adventure, definitely. And can you imagine - in our own "backyard" - Times



Karen Meier

Square next year on New Year's Eve 2000?!! (Like, we would even be there with our Midwest born and bred family in that crush of frenzied, partying New Yorkers, scary). And the housing prices. A

house like we have now in our little town in southeast Michigan would cost out there, in the New York City area, at least twice as much. At least twice! How would that work? We couldn't afford it! So move into a smaller place? Like say, two bedrooms and one bathroom? As it is, we're rather bumping elbows here, with our family of eight, plus the cat, plus the five goldfish. And, here's a thing, at least three of the recent movies we've rented had New York City wiped off the map, either a giant Godzilla lizard-dinosaur monster walked all over the city, or a huge asteroid smashed the city, famous landmarks fell down just like that, or an 11,000 foot high tidal wave drowning out everybody and knocking the city down. Not good.

So when it was announced on December 18 that Ron was going to Chicago, this family breathed a sigh of relief. A mixed sigh of relief, if there can be such a thing. Moving our family away from everything we know, the friends, the cousins, the teachers, the grandparents, the familiar pew in church, the creek running along the edge of our backyard in its forest, the neighbors up and down

our tree lined boulevard who've seen our family grow and expand over 10 1/2 years. When we moved here the Meier family consisted of a Mom, and Dad and two young children and now ten-plus years later, there's still a Mom and Dad but now it's six children - ranging in age from 14 1/2 to 1 (that's right - 1!! Tommy just celebrated his first birthday last Saturday! Can you believe it?!). So you see, a lot of living has gone on in this house, and roots have been established, and over the years our house and yard, our place, has become, in a way, a member of the family. It knows us, we know it.

But of course, home is where you make it, it's where the heart is. And of course, it'll take some time before our hearts can truly leave this home. The movers will come, they'll put our things in a great giant van (eight people have a lot of stuff requiring a great giant van), and I'll vacuum my floors one more time, pile the children in the car, and we'll head west. But the echoes of a happy decade lived in this good house on this lovely street with its tall trees and good neighbors will ring on - and life will go on. It always does.

Police curtail drug binge

By IVAN HELFMAN
MCN Staff Writer

Two men went on a party binge in a parked truck in Westland.

Police were called on a recent night after Landings Apartments residents complained that the men carried on in the parked truck for two hours.

Responding officers spotted the two glassy-eyed men in the truck and approached the driver's window. As the driver rolled down the window, marijuana smell wafted out. One officer smelled pot burning on the floor.

The officer also spotted a 12-pack of Miller Lite and many empty cans.

Both men appeared drunk, having bloodshot eyes and reeking of alcohol.

The officers asked for their

The officers ran a lien check on the passenger, who turned out to be a 24-year-old man using an alias.

ages. The driver said he was 24; the passenger said 20.

After the driver stepped outside of the truck to extract his wallet from his work overalls, the officer spotted a ceramic narcotics pipe on the truck's floor.

The officers arrested the driver for possession of narcotics paraphernalia.

The officers then gave the passenger a breathalyzer test. After scoring too high, the passenger was arrested as a minor in possession.

With both men in custody, the officers searched the truck and found a second dope pipe.

The officers ran a lien check on the passenger, who turned out to be a 24-year-old man using an alias. Police ticketed him for disguising his identity and for loitering around illegal drugs.

The driver was cited for possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia.

Both men were held at the Westland police station jail until they sobered up.

Police lockdown a strike

The Canton Police Department's 4th Annual All-Night Bowling Lock-down was a great success. Over 250 teens attended the event. The lockdown, held in conjunction with Superbowl bowling center, took place from midnight to 7 a.m., on Friday, December 18.

All pre-teens and teens, ages nine to 15 were invited to join the fun at Superbowl, 45100 Ford Road, in Canton. For only \$15 the teens enjoyed a night of bowling, D.J. music, dancing, pizza, pop, continental breakfast and giveaways. Community Policing teams were present to interact with the teens on a social level.

Teens from Canton, Westland,

Teens attending were not be permitted to leave without an adult.

Livonia, Brighton, Garden City and other areas all came to Superbowl to join the fun. Over 2,400 games were bowled. The group was mostly made up of children ages 10-13 from the Canton area. Promotion by DARE officers and other school liaison officers led to the great turnout.

Teens attending were not be permitted to leave without an adult. No alcohol or smoking was

permitted. Canton Police officers, reserves and Explorers attending said this year was a relatively calm group, and that many brought sleeping bags and pillows for the early morning hours.

Proceeds from this event will fund uniforms, programs and activities for the Canton Police Explorers. The Explorer program is an effort coordinated by Public Safety in cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America. The purpose of the Explorers is to introduce young adults, ages 14-21, to the multitude of career opportunities in law enforcement.

For more information on the Explorers program call Officer Mike Steckel at (734) 397-64551.

Students place in drawing contest

McDonald's restaurants sponsored a drawing contest in October to celebrate the ever so popular full-length animated Disney/Pixar movie, *A Bug's Life*.

Kid's age 4-12 were invited to draw their own unique bug - complete with name and personality description. Five children from Canton, Michigan, were selected as semi-finalist in the contest. Mariel Collins, Mario DiNicola, Eric Marion and Chelsey Quinlan, each in Ms. Oleksiak's fourth grade class at Gallimore Elementary school were selected. Joslyn DiVinyne a fourth grade student at Miller Elementary school was also amongst one of the 100 semi-finalists.

Ms. Oleksiak said, "I saw the contest article in the newspaper. Since we were studying insects I thought this would be a great art project to give to the kids." All 29 of Ms. Oleksiak's students partici-

pated in the contest. "They even had to incorporate characteristics of insects into the drawing, including the correct insect parts." As for Joslyn, she was self motivated. She also saw the information in the newspaper, however she participated on her own, without teacher supervision.

All 100 semi-finalists received McDonald's prize packages and a certificate. All contest participants received honorable mention certificates.

Disney's *A Bug's Life* is the second computer-animated feature film by Pixar, the creators of Toy Story. It tells a heartwarming tale about a misfit ant and his pals who try to save their ant colony from a group of greedy grasshoppers.

McDonald's tied in with this exciting new feature film to bring customers a fully integrated, bug-tacular, all-family program featur-

ing *A Bug's Life* Chicken McNuggets with special apple-cinnamon dipping sauce; Happy Meals with eight different collectible wind-up or pull-back toys featuring a lovable character from the film and *A Bug's Life* collectible watches.

Stop in to your local Canton McDonald's to purchase your favorite premium from *A Bug's Life*.

Student wins grant

David Coole of Westland has received an undergraduate student research grant from Central Michigan University.

Undergraduate student research grants provide up to \$250 to offset costs associated with conducting research. Coole is pursuing a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Coole is conducting a study in CMU's Brain Research Laboratory, where faculty and students use animal models to analyze potential treatments for Huntington's disease. His project is titled "The Effects of Long-term, Low-level Lead Treatment on GFAP Expression in Young Rats."

He is the son of Roland Coole of Westland.

Goodfellow drive a success

By CAROL MARSHALL
MCN Staff Writer

The Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows were happy to announce that their annual canned food, clothing and toy drive was a success, once again. Over the last several months, they were able to make this holiday season brighter for more than 175 local families and more than 300 children.

This would not have been possible without the generous donations and support from the local residents, the business community, the school system and all the volunteers who helped in compiling names, picking up the donations and packing the boxes.

Residents have shown they care by collecting food, donating toys and buying Goodfellow newspapers.

The Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows extend their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all who made this undertaking possible.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN CATHOLIC PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold Public Hearings on Wednesday, January 13, 1999 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111.

These Public Hearings relate to the following proposed amendments to the Township's Zoning Ordinance. These proposed amendments pertain to two separate items:

- 1) The creation of an M-T, Industrial Transportation District, and amendments to the existing M-1, Light Industrial District.
- 2) Amendments to the existing regulations governing sexually oriented businesses.

Copies of the proposed amendments are available in the Department of Developmental Services. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the American Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

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January 7, 1999

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Candy cane lane

A score of Westland area youngsters, who took part in the recent Westland Free Methodist Church production of Candy Cane Lane, are shown awaiting their time to perform. Pastor Mark Cryderman said the four musical sessions were set up to teach youth "the truth that God alone can satisfy our hungry hearts." MCN Special Photo

Pastor Edwin Hoff dies

The Rev. Edwin Hoff, pastor for the handicapped at Belleville First United Methodist Church, died suddenly Jan. 4, after being stricken at his home.

Hoff had served as a member of the First U.M. Church staff for the past two decades.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at the church under the direction of the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

A three-part discussion for interfaith couples known as

Let's Talk began yesterday at the Interfaith Connection of Southfield.

The series that will focus on traditions, communication and holidays and families will continue Jan. 13 and 20 at the Agency for Jewish Education, 21550 W. 12 Mile road in Southfield.

Each session will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and will cost \$5 per adult per session. Child-care is provided during the sessions.

For more information call

Sue Stettner, director, at 248-354-1050.

The third annual raffle and banquet sponsored by the Notre Dame Council, Knights of Columbus, will be held on Feb. 24. Only 100 tickets can be sold for the raffle.

First prize will be \$3,000 and second prize will be \$500. There will be nine other cash prizes. Ticket information can be obtained by calling 728-3020, 464-2969, 697-8482 or 729-1294.

More than 140 Romulus youth 'locked-in' on New Years' Eve

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

More than 140 sports-loving Romulus area youth voluntarily were locked-inside Romulus High on New Years' Eve for a drug-free, but fun-filled eight hour session to welcome in the new year -- 1999.

The Rev. Neil Swanger of the Ball Road Tabernacle Church of Romulus, who spear-headed the festival style event, said the youth joined in basketball, volleyball and dodge ball tournaments last Thursday night and Friday morning.

The youth were joined by several Romulus Community Police officers and about 30 adult volunteers in making the second annual "lock-in" another trouble-free party time.

The youth began arriving Thursday at 8:30 p.m. with the music and sporting events kicking off at 9 p.m.

Swanger admitted that the athletic competitions were the major attraction of the night, but many of the youth also took time to view movies, gobble up more than 75 pizzas and enjoy both live and DJ produced music.

In addition to other community supplied gifts, Swanger said, the Romulus Rotary Club donated \$500, the Hostess Thrift Bakery donated hundreds of snack cakes and Little Caesar's Pizzeria on Wayne road provided the pizzas at a discounted price.

Among the Community Police Officers in attendance were Sgt. Kreg Booker, Rose Cooper, Warren Jones and Anthony Norman.

Working with Swanger at the lock-in was his youth minister Bill Brower and Rev. Steve Adams of the Romulus Wesleyan Church.

The lock-in program was created in 1997 by the Romulus Ministerial Society and was coordinated by Chad Moore, then youth pastor at Ball Road Tabernacle, and the Rev. Brad Lewis of the Community United Methodist Church.

Moore, who has since transferred to religious pursuits in Ohio, returned New Years Eve to help provide the musical entertainment.

Swanger was enthusiastic enough to say that a similar New Years' Eve event will be planned for this New Year's Eve ... that will feature the move into a new century -- the year 2000.

Saturday night's fierce snowstorm closed many churches in the western Wayne County area on Sunday.

With the cancellation of the morning service at the Community United Methodist

Church on Sunday, many members did not get to view the displayed building expansion plans.

Members and friends of the church can stop by the office (Olive and Bibbins) in Romulus during the mid-week office hours to view the printed materials.

After the 11 a.m. Jan. 24 religious service, a special meeting will be conducted for members and friends of Community United Methodist Church for a discussion on building plans offered by Leroy Sims, chairman of the church's building committee.

The church expansion option -- that will include new church school class rooms and other improvements -- will then be voted upon by church members.

The vote will decide whether the expansion plans will be pursued or not, Pastor William Kren said Monday.

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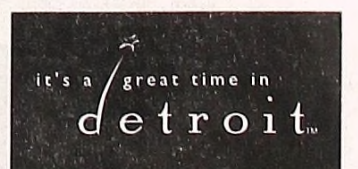


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To recommend groups or for more information, please call Ken Kettenbeil at 1-888-METRO-18.



* Any membership association, group or reunion qualifies. Meetings held exclusively in the metro Detroit area do not qualify; metro Detroit must be competing with other communities for the proposed meeting. Meeting must include 50 or more people booking a minimum of 25 hotel rooms.

Seniors on the go

M I C H I G A N C O M M U N I T Y N E W S P A P E R S

Okay, who is going to break ice in '99

"So everyone is never satisfied, you say. When '98 ended with a warm streak...many grandfathers complained "they just don't make winters the way they use to."

Older readers would add "why when I was your age -- we use to walk to school in foot deep blizzards and then return home later in the day to shovel the entire neighborhood's sidewalks for free."

The stories would be given postscripts however by grandmothers, who would wink as their husbands would tell versions of the above story.

"No grandpa didn't walk bare foot, as he hinted. And yes he agreed to do the shoveling for free...but held out his hand waist high, until the neighbor dropped coins or dollar bills in his hand," grandmas would smile.

Then they would add "no Grandpa didn't lie. Some things are just hard to remember precisely!"

This writer was involved in a rare incident -- so unique that most people would have a

Then they would add "no Granpa didn't lie. Some things are just hard to remember precisely!"

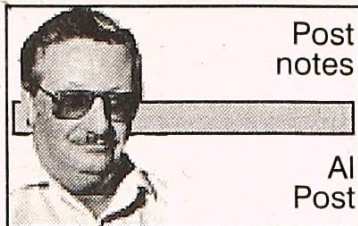
hard time swallowing it as the truth.

Having been snowed out of class back in the 50's, it wasn't hard to get home quick, grab a shovel and then offer shoveling services.

One of my early stops was at a corner dentist's home. Trying to show my professional skills, I knocked on the door and in my most business-like attitude offered to shovel the dentist's massive snow amounts for \$2.

You have to understand that was in the days when comic books only cost a dime.

I didn't realize what conservative meant in those days, but the dentist startled me by saying "how about doing it for a quarter?"



Post notes
AL POST

My face flushed upon hearing the offer. "I've got a better deal...how about if I give you a quarter and you allow me to watch you shovel the walk yourself?"

For some strange reason, I remember the dentist slammed his door in my face. But it wasn't too surprising to see a day later that the walk way was still covered with snow.

Now that 1999 is a full week old, have you gotten into the habit of writing the correct date on your checks?

I was surprised recently when I received a pleasant letter from a large city newspaper's subscriber's office.

I thought I had made that mistake. But lo and behold...I hadn't placed the wrong date on the check...I only forgot to place the check itself in the return envelope.

For some reason the clerk saw no humor in my action...or lack of it. But at least I had a good laugh...before sending the requested check.

Lawyer assistance continues

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

A free legal advice program started by now 34th District Court Judge Brian Oakley, will continue at the Romulus Senior Citizen Center from 3 to 5 p.m. Jan. 20.

One of Oakley's associates -- Steve Robinson -- will be on hand that afternoon to continue the service program.

Linda Norman, director of the Romulus Senior Center, reveals that the first center luncheon for the year will take place at 1 p.m. Jan. 22.

Pork and sauerkraut will be featured along with mashed potatoes. The cost will be \$4.50 per person.

African-American achievements will be highlighted at a luncheon at the Romulus Senior Citizen Center at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 26.

A few lunch guests also will speak briefly on the achievements of African Americans. The first 50 persons to sign up for the luncheon will receive special bracelets commemorating the day.

No hair cuts will be available during the month of January at the Romulus Senior Center. The hair cut program will resume in February.

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THE CLASSIFIEDS...
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WHAT YOUR
LOOKING FOR!**

Black history month slated

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn will celebrate the unique contributions of African Americans to the world of music with the *Rhythm Rising: Exploring America's Musical Roots* next month.

"African-American music is based on rhythm, which is the foundation for all American music today," Jim Johnson, special events coordinator, said.

Rhythm Rising music events at the Henry Ford Museum

"African-American music is based on rhythm, which is the foundation for all American music today."
- Jim Johnson

throughout the month of February will include spirituals, ragtime, blues, New Orleans Jazz and Motown tunes.

In addition to musical performances, visitors to the museum during Black History

Month will have a chance to explore a permanent exhibition of African-American innovators, make traditional kufi hats and watch cooking demonstrations.

Among the dramatic presentations will be *John's Freedom Fight*, a story of a plantation slave who wins his freedom with his wits; *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives*, a photo exhibit; and *Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, members will be on hand to answer questions about family trees and research.

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Snow and football combine to make 1999 start dreary

So this is 1999. Two feet of snow. Impassable roadways. Arctic cold. Newscasters call it the worst winter storm to hit southeast Michigan in 10 years.

Instead of celebrating the new year with fun and excitement, most of us have been stuck at home to wander on the world wide web or watch television sitcoms.

This writer chose football as his major theme to begin the new year. Like many other couch potatoes, I writhed in pain as I watched U of M blow a two-touchdown Citrus Bowl half-time lead. The pain promptly ended, however, when three fourth quarter touchdowns sealed the victory over President Clinton's beloved "hogs."

Overnight I shoveled the driveway and adjacent sidewalk only to wake-up next morning to bellybutton deep drifts created by the city snowplow. The street was plowed but most of the snow ended back up in my driveway. Oh well, I guess it would be another day of football watching.

I turned my remote control to the pros. Flutie Flakes ringmaster, Doug Flutie was leading the Buffalo Bills to a half-time lead over Dan Marino lead Miami. It was a half that rated 10 on the nap-taking barometer. Half two, however, was glorius as touchdowns were plentiful and turnovers provided Miami with the win.

Game over, time to push more snow. Damn, hand shoveling snow that's waist-high deep is no fun. I'm huffing and puffing after 15 minutes. Time to take a break. No actually, it's time to

quit because the Orange Bowl features one of my favorite grid-iron teams, the Gators of Florida. I settle in to watch those fabulous reptiles rip apart the Orangemen of Syracuse.

Halfway through the third quarter I hear the city's snowplow come by. Once again any attempt to get my rear-drive car out to the street would be fruitless. Next morning as more snow flies through the brisk air I'm back on the attack with my trusty snow shovel. I manage to burrow a couple of paths to the street. Maybe I can get my vehicle out now, I think.

But wait a minute. Two more football games are on tap. It's wild-card season in the NFL and only two teams will survive today's lineup of the Patriots versus the Jaguars and the Packers versus the 49ers. I decide to settle in to the couch. Why battle Old Man Winter outside, when you can watch endless football inside? The choice was clear.

That was my beginning to 1999. No dancing the night away to Prince's 1999 (how many times must we hear that song?). No waiting in the airport to take that mini-vacation to Cancun (thank God, I understand the floor space at Metro was littered with sleeping bags). Just me, my TV, and the pigskin (and occasionally, my trusty snow shovel).



Mike's musings
Mike Wilcox



Life imitates primetime TV

Despite making the covers of *Rolling Stone* and *Entertainment Weekly* magazines, "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" is a still a cult show. Zillions of teenagers watch it Tuesday night, then review the show's highlights Wednesday morning in school.

Teens seem to connect with Buffy Summers, a rebel with a cause and a pointed wooden stake.

Having a 15-year-old daughter in the "Buffy" cult, I know all about her. For those of you who don't, *Salon's* TV writer hit it on the nose when she wrote: "Buffy Summers is a fairly typical teenage girl (broken home, bored with school, wears a lot of pale violet lipstick and '70s-retro hip-huggers and baby T's). But she's also a vampire slayer, preordained to kick armies of undead butt. Her qualifications: superior demon-sensing intuition, impressive ability to throw and take a punch and tons of lethal sarcasm. Plus, she can run really fast in chunky platform shoes."

It's necessary for her to battle gothic vampires, demons, monsters, witches and werewolves because her hometown sits on top of hell — just like certain area high schools.

Besides ridding the nighttime streets of vampires, Buffy copes with the same problems as other teenagers — dating, school, and adults who just don't get it.



Ivan Helfman

Nevertheless, Buffy and her friends are branded as losers. Her mother grounds her; her principal expels her; her classmates snub her.

But that's just the way it is. "Buffy's" millions of teenage fans cheer on her unappreciated victories.

This matters because fascination with "Buffy" doesn't end after the credits roll or when the TV is turned off. Today's teens retain an emotional attachment to "Buffy's" values, slang, and clothes — much like earlier generations of teens, who kids put on jeans and motorcycle jackets and mumbled like Marlon Brandon in the fifties, or wore tie-dyed T-shirts and turned on like Jimi Hendrix in the sixties.

Life seems to follow entertainment.

I used to think that it was the other way around. After reading Canton police reports for a year, I began to notice that the township's nether life was as strange as the plot of *Blue Velvet*. Originally I thought that director David Lynch was parodying the weird-

ness of suburbia. Now I think that it's the other way around: life imitates Hollywood.

I think that "Buffy" is real to teens because she shapes their perceptions. What is cool on "Buffy" — wild dates, sneaking around parents, defying authority, and taking monsters with a grain of salt — is cool in real life.

In the same way, other entertainment values are shaping the rest of us, adults included. For a while, many of us were emotionally "Seinfeld" characters, seeing the world as a situation comedy. Then, like an episode of "Seinfeld," came the Monica Lewinski affair.

While most Americans instinctively know that it's wrong to persecute the president for being caught in an embarrassing situation, we continue to turn to the media gossips who embarrass him.

For better or worse, presidential sleaze entertains us.

Since our political reality has been shaped by movies and television shows, entertaining scandals elbow out the reality of public affairs.

Is this as bad as it seems? I don't think so.

Millions of people have died for unreal political and religious doctrines. Outside of some drug overdoses and a few copycat killings, not too many people have died for entertainment.



Thanks a Million

WEEKLY SYNDICATED COLUMN by PERCY ROSS

Millionaire Percy Ross is known for his philanthropic work. He offers help and encouragement for those in need. He has earned a fortune and a wealth of knowledge during his lifetime and wants to share both. His motto: "He who gives while he lives... also knows where it goes."

Just When You Thought Things Couldn't Get Worse

Dear Mr. Ross: I'm at the end of my rope and the end of any hope. I just can't seem to get my life on track. Several bad relationships over the past 8 years have taken their toll on me financially and emotionally. I'm at a dead end job that offers little to improve my self-esteem. My car runs poorly. My clothes look shabby. And my life is one endless bad hair day.

Everything looks like life is a bust. Then something happened that changed my outlook. A life-long friend has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. This man has been a close family friend and a true support for me all my life. Suddenly my problems look like a bump on a flea's behind. I'm grieved over the loss I'm about to face—that of a dear, decent man, who was one of the good guys. What can you do? Pray. Pray that his pain and suffering are worth the price of going to a better place, if indeed one exists. If that weren't enough to ask, how about one more thing. This gentleman has several outstanding debts totalling close to \$1,500. With medical costs, he is disheartened about his ability to pay up. There are worse things in life than to die with debt, but it's the one area I can't help him with. Mr. Ross, would you help him with this? Anything you can do to ease his passage will be gratefully accepted.

Ms. G. D. ... *Mesabi Daily News*, Virginia, MN

Dear Ms. D.: Let me set this straight from the get-go. You'll be helping your friend with \$1,500, because that is the amount I'm sending you.

Death of a loved one is a painful journey to embark on. It doesn't bring much solace to know that the measure of how much that person is missed, is a reflection of how much they were loved. And that you'll carry a portion of that grief for the rest of your life is unsettling, too. That, however, is the bitter reality of life.

Our lives are shaped by the experiences we share with others. All you can do is offer love and support and share this final experience together.

My condolences and sorrow for your loss.

Dear Mr. Ross: Five years ago I wrote asking for help with a plane ticket so I could be with my dad during his surgery in Florida. You were not able to help me, but were kind enough to respond and wish me the best. I'm writing today because I still read your column and am touched by your human concern for others. I don't have money to do things for people as you do, but I sure could enjoy helping those who need it.

Today, I saw on my way home, an elderly lady waiting for a bus in the pouring rain. I thought how wet and cold she is getting and could possibly get sick. I went right home and found an umbrella we don't use and drove back to the bus stop. When I approached her she backed away, but I smiled and gave her the umbrella to keep dry. At first she didn't want to take it, because she didn't know how to return it. I told her I wouldn't need it returned and she smiled back! But imagine my feeling as I was leaving, when she lifted her head and eyes to the sky and said, "Thank you, Father!" Well! It really touched my heart. She made me feel like an angel. It was the nicest gift I ever received!! I may not have the money available to do things for people like you do, but this gesture gave me as much joy as I could have hoped for. You keep doing what you do, and I'm going to try this again. What a wonderful, wonderful feeling.

Ms. D. C. ... *The Herald*, Everett, WA

Dear Ms. C.: As sappy as it sounds, you've brought tears to my eyes. For me, it is one thing to touch a life directly. But when I've learned I've inspired another to share an act of kindness, now I've made a dent in the world. As my chest swells just a bit, I want to thank you for letting me know I've made an impact.

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Letters from our readers

Looking for a socialist? Try a public school

To the Editor:

Political correctness has been in vogue long enough to suggest to members of the teaching profession that forced union membership and classroom instruction that weakens our long accepted values system can be attacked and undermined. The Clinton administration isn't totally responsible for the liberal machinations that take place daily all over the land.

For decades many who do not understand that our well-being is the result of ingenuity, discovery, invention, creativity, and entrepreneurship have been pushing the collectivist ideas of planning and big government. The left-leaning believes redistribution rather than increased productivity can solve most people problems. Thomas Sowell has often suggested that those with the mentality, "You have something I don't have, gimme half," are found in our public school classrooms in large numbers fostering the socialist doctrine, some knowingly, some as unwitting dupes.

Sincerely,
Neil Goodbred, Grumpy

An open letter to Belleville residents

To the Editor:

Dear Belleville residents, the mayoral election is just around the corner and having recently been elected Central Business

Community President I thought it important to encourage you to vote. The Central Business Community is non-political in regards to the fact that it does support individual parties or candidates, what we do however is support ideas and ordinances and mind-sets if you will that will be benefi-

See **LETTERS**, page A-7



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More Letters From Our Readers

M I C H I G A N C O M M U N I T Y N E W S P A P E R S

Letters

Continued from page A-6

cial to the downtown business district.

Please keep in mind that a healthy downtown district helps to bring about a healthy Belleville and that often failure to plan is a plan to fail. One might be tempted to take the position that 'It's only 11 months, what does it really matter, keep in mind that is only takes a few seconds for a bull to destroy a china shop.

I personally hold to the belief that our community has the necessary tools in order to thrive but needs now a skilled person in the drivers' seat in order to bring everything together. So while the C.B.C. does not endorse an individual candidate we would ask you to select the candidate with a vision for the future of the downtown district and the ability to work together with various groups. Thank you for your time, and as always please frequent and shop your Downtown Belleville.

Dan Martin, Pres-1999, C.B.C.

7. A new animal shelter.
8. A productive job for all Romulus citizens.
9. Less airport noise.
10. Health, happiness and a safe 1999.

It saddens me to see that the Official Newspaper for the City of Romulus wishes that hazardous deep well would operate in our city. This Councilman's wishes only positive things for our city. This does not include 40 or 50 hazardous waste truck trucks rolling through our city daily, nor does it include several hazardous trains stopping and dropping this poisonous cargo in our city. These are not the wishes of this Councilman! It is my opinion that the Official Newspaper of the City of Romulus should stop worrying about their "few special friends" and should concentrate on worrying about all the citizens of the City of Romulus as has this Councilman for the past sixteen years!

Sincerely yours,
William Wadsworth,
Chairman Pro Tem
City of Romulus

Bill ice fisherman who negligently fall through ice

To the Editor:

Here we go again! Ice-fisherman stranded on ice flows breaking away from shore in Lake St. Clair...Every year, despite Coast Guard warnings about unsafe ice conditions, determined and defiant fishermen ignore all warnings. Is this where the word ignorance came from?

Not only are these fishernuts endangering their own lives, but they force others to risk their just to rescue them when the ice flow breaks up and is blown into frigid open water: ENOUGH! This is not a case of someone fishing for food or survival!

May I suggest that Coast Guard to be given authority to declare safe ice conditions when they determine such conditions have been met? This applies to both winter/spring and winter/fall conditions. Every year there is a certain group who begin before the ice is safe enough and then in the spring, there is a certain group who begin before the ice is safe enough and then in the spring, there is a group who go out when the ice is thawing and breaking up. Both groups are NOT being

held responsible for their actions! In the event of any defiance to the Coast Guard rulings, anyone requiring rescue operations will be billed for ALL rescue operation costs. If Coast Guard warnings will not impress the violators, perhaps paying for the tab on the rescue operations will impress them! Anyone using EMS services gets billed for the service, why not these people??? Why wait to see if any rescue operator gets drowned or injured? It is time for Lansing to do something and the time is NOW!

Thank you,
Anthony B. Brehler,
aka Grumpy

Sad Christmas wish story was bogus

To the Editor:

It made for good sensationalism at Christmas time but no happiness for us. From the other side of the coin - we're the other part of this story - Grandma & Grandpa Seever to the twins - Phillip & Steven Seever - We have visitation rights - 3 weekends per month. If she is in a difficult divorce or

situation as is stated in the article, it's of Susan's own making - she chose to leave the house and moved out, cleaned the house out, picked it clean while her husband was at work leaving him with virtually nothing to go on. Everything went. Poor Susan got it all with the help of many persons. Why all the whimpering and we hear she is going quite well.

We don't deny she is ill, is that any reason to scam people? She scammed the media twice. 1st time on radio and Christmas 1997. 2nd time by this story.

Where is Susan's hairpiece in the picture-wonder why? Somethings just don't add up, like I said it's a good write-up to her advantage.

My wife and I did not appreciate the use of our name. At least seven times in the article and then published in many communities. It doesn't bring us any happiness.

What might Seever be doing with support money her husband is paying her? And I never saw a for sale sign on her house she was renting?

Do you feel scammed?
Evertt & Edith Seever
Garden City

No, Mr. Seever, we do not feel scammed. Our understanding of the facts in Susan Seever's story was that she is very ill, in the midst of her second bout with cancer, and that her Christmas wish is to take a vacation with her children.

These were the factors which compelled us to choose her for this program, and MCN feels that we were in no way lied to or deceived by Ms. Seever.

As for our reference to Ms. Seever, using her last name repeatedly throughout the article, newspaper style dictates that we attribute others' quotes and thoughts, and in doing so, we refer to them by last name.-C.M.

\$200,000 necessary to seek treatment and has scheduled the transplant.

Her son's teacher, Sandra Austin, informed MCN that Hammons is doing well and "sounded great," when they recently spoke on the phone, but is facing a two-month-long treatment process.

"She would really like to get some mail," Austin said. So, well-wishers can send cards and letters of support to:

Kathy Hammons
Attn: Front Desk
215 E. Chicago
Chicago, IL 60611

Lupus patient Kathy Hammons wants your letters

Kathy Hammons, Belleville area resident who has since autumn been awaiting a stem cell transplant to treat complications from Lupus, is finally beginning treatment in Chicago.

After many fundraisers-necessary because her insurance won't cover the transplant because it's still considered experimental-Hammons was able to raise the

Food recipient thanks MCN and other donors

To the Editor:

Thank you, thank you, for the wonderful gifts and food. We finally got to sleep in a bed. Thanks to the wonderful people on the staff at the newspaper. We will be forever grateful. May God bless you all.

Jenine Stanfield
Canton

Councilman wish list different than newspapers

To the Editor:

On December 24, 1998 after reading Community Newspapers Editor Mike Wilcox's article, "Christmas Wishes to a Few Special Friends", I question what vision he has for Romulus and its residents. "Doug Wickland, Environmental Disposal Services head honcho-I hope this genuine nice guy gets the deep well site his firm has been actively seeking for the better part of a decade."

This Councilman's wish list for Romulus has a vision for all the residents not for just "a few of my special friends." My wish list includes:

1. More police, fire and city services.
2. Expanded senior citizen programs.
3. A recreation center.
4. Upscale family homes so young couples can raise their children.
5. Pay raises for all the dedicated city workers.
6. Development that brings positive images to Romulus.

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Local HAPPENINGS

YOUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND INTERESTS

SEND INFORMATION Items for the Michigan Community Newspapers Community Calendar should be submitted in writing at least one to two weeks in advance of publication to "Community Calendar," Michigan Community Newspapers, 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, MI 48184. Each brief calendar item should be listed on a separate piece of paper. For more information call the newsroom at 729-4000 Ext. 43.

SPORTS CARD SHOW slated at the Gibraltar Trade Center in Taylor (Eureka and I-75) from noon to 9 p.m. Feb. 12, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Feb. 13 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 14. For more information call 734-287-2000.

GOLF SHOW slated at the Gibraltar Trade Center in Taylor (Eureka and I-75) from noon to 9 p.m. Feb. 5, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Feb. 6 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 7. For more information call 734-287-2000.

BACKYARD, POOL AND SPA SHOW slated at the Novi Expo Centera March 26-28. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Ages 5 and under go free. For more information call 616-530-1919.

PLYMOUTH INTERNATIONAL ICE SPECTACULAR featuring carvers from U.S., Canada, Japan, Norway, Russia and Switzerland, is slated Jan. 13-18 at Kellogg Park in Plymouth. The fun-filled family winter festival is free and open 24-hours a day. The hotline number is 734-459-9157.

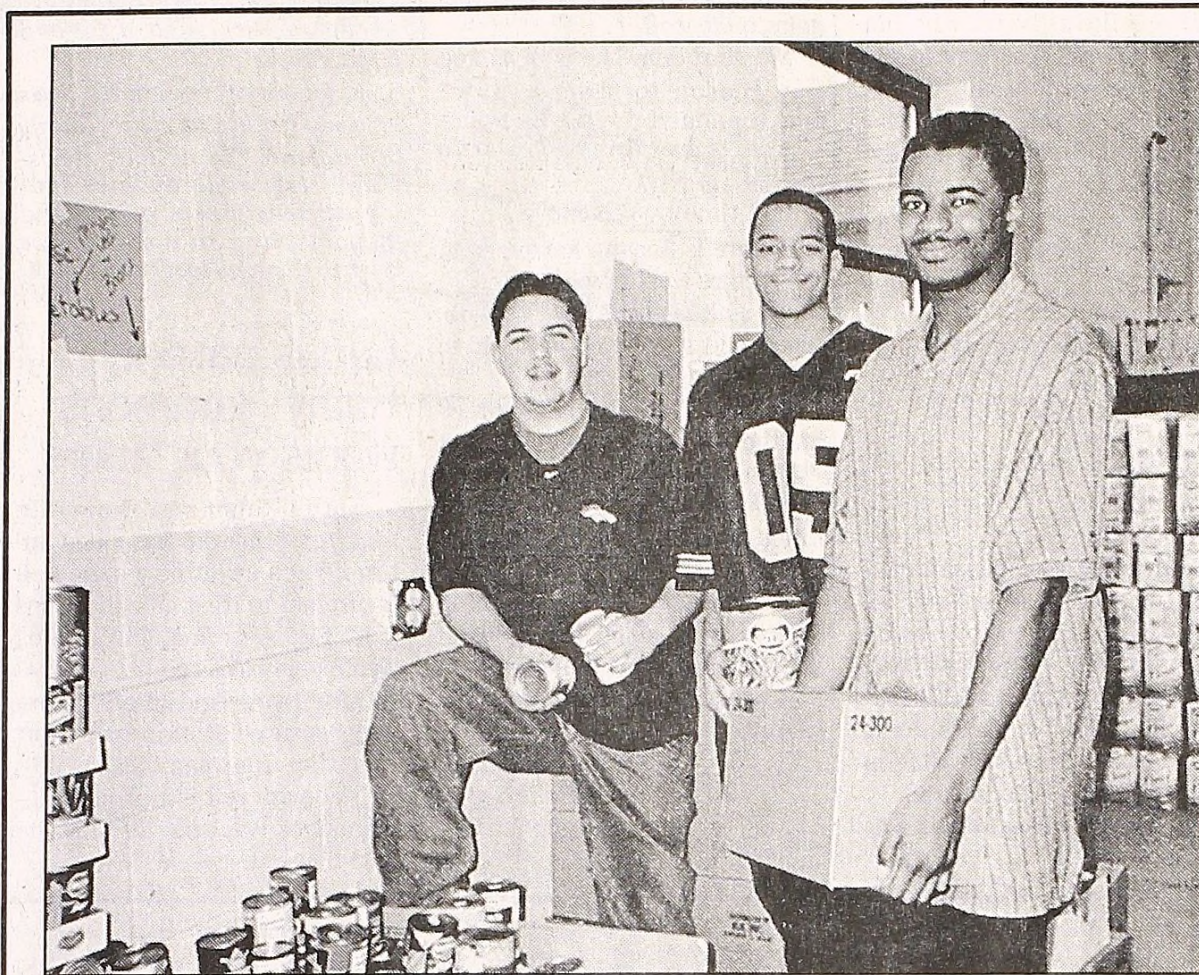
MOM-DAUGHTER CLASSES OFFERED are slated in Canton soon by St. Joseph Mercy Health System's Women Health Services to help conversational talks improve between mothers and elementary and middle school-age daughters. For more information or to register call 800-231-2211.

CANTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY board meetings will be held Jan. 18 and Feb. 15. For more information call 734-397-0088.

BALLET AUDITIONS for the School of American Ballet will be held Jan. 18 at the Oakland University Dance Dept., Varner Hall in Rochester. The times are 2:30 p.m. for 12 and 13 year olds; 3:30 to 5 p.m. for 14 and 15 year olds and from 5 to 6 p.m. for 16-18 year olds. An application fee of \$10 is needed at audition time. For more information call Annette Burgess at 212-769-6600.

EAT RIGHT/THINK CLEAN by Eugene Clark will be offered from Jan. 15-Feb. 27 at the Center Galleries, Center for Creative Studies, College of Art and Design, in Detroit. For more information call Michele Spivak at 313-664-7806.

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS VISIT Globetrotters' World Tour will stop off at 1 p.m. Jan. 30 at The Palace in Auburn Hills. Tickets ranging from



Student helpers

Three members of the Romulus High School's Business Professionals of America are shown as they begin preparing food items for the holiday distribution by Romulus Goodfellows. From left are Jonathan Estes, a senior and group president; Joe Brown, a sophomore member; and Dominic Evitts, another senior member. Photo by Al Post.

\$11.50 to \$18 can be charged to credit cards by calling 248-645-6666. Two dollar discounts can be obtained for senior citizens 60 and over and for children 12 and under.

CHILI GOLF OUTING will be started at 9 a.m. Jan. 9 at the Leslie Park Golf Course, 2120 Traver road, Ann Arbor. Golfers will take part in six holes in the snow (that is if there is snow) and then conclude with a hot chili meal. Cost is \$12 per person. Deadline for registering is Dec. 30. For more information call 734-971-6840.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. each second Monday of the month at 9318 Newburgh road (between Joy road and Ann Arbor trail in Canton. All veterans, both male and female, who served from Jan. 1, 1959 to May 7, 1975 are eligible to join regardless of duty station. For more information call Don Dignan at 313-845-3752 or 734-525-0157.

WINTER HOSPICE COURSES are slated Thursdays from 4 to 7 p.m. beginning Jan. 14 at Madonna University. The non-credit fee is \$300. Students can earn 4.5 continuing education units. For more information call 734-432-5731.

GERONTOLOGY COURSE called "Helping Dementia

Families" is slated at Madonna University in Livonia from 1 to 4 p.m. Jan. 29 through Feb. 26. The non-credit fee is \$100. Students can earn 1.5 continuing education units. For more information call 734-432-5731.

FREE EYE EXAMS for low income families will be available in March through a program called VISION USA. Applicants must be working but have no health insurance that covers eyes. They should before Jan. 29 the following number: 1-800-766-4466.

SPORTSFISHING, BOAT AND TRAVEL SHOW during March 11-14 at the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing. On display will be the latest fishing boats, motors, fishing gear and accessories. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. For more information call Showspan Inc. at 616-530-1919.

FOSTER/ADOPTIVE PARENTS SOUGHT two-hour orientation will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 13 and Feb. 18, 1999 for possible parents for infants, children and teens with severe emotional problems. Orientation will be held at St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center's Foster Care and Adoption Building, 29475 Inkster road in Farmington Hills. For more information call 248-626-7527 ext. 3368.

tion call Connie at 734-326-3502.

WEST SIDE SINGLES dances are slated from 8 p.m. every Friday at the Burton Manor in Livonia. Admission is \$5 after 8:30 p.m., \$3 before. Those 21 years or older are urged to wear dressy attire (no jeans). Manor is located on Schoolcraft, west of Inkster road. The hotline is 734-981-0909.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK SALES offering two-for-one sales and 50 percent discounts on dining, travel, shopping, movies, sports, etc are being offered for \$40 by the Plymouth Community Chorus. Books can be delivered throughout western Wayne County. For more information call Stan: at 734-459-6829.

KIDNEY CAR DONATIONS The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan is now accepting used cars, boats, motorcycles and motor homes. Donors should call 1-800-483-CARS to arrange a pick-up date. They also are urged to consult their tax advisors for details regarding their specific situations. Funds raised from the vehicle sales are used to aid programs and services for Michigan's kidney patients.

GRIEF RECOVERY a five week course offered by the Hospice of Washtenaw will stress adapting to losses and skills in coping with such losses. Sessions will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday at the hospice office at 806 Airport Blvd., Ann Arbor. Pre-registration is required by calling 734-327-3409.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING free screening takes place from noon until 2 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the lobby of Garden City Hospital,

6245 Inkster road in Garden City -- between Ford and Warren roads.

FREE HEARING SCREENING is offered from noon until 2 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the lobby of the Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster road in Garden City -- between Ford and Warren roads.

ROBIN HOOD WORKSHOP is slated at Madonna University in Livonia from 6 to 10 p.m. Jan. 22 and from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 23. The workshop will examine significant variants of the Robin Hood/Hode legend in its 12 century origins. The non-credit fee is \$100. Students can earn 1.5 continuing education units. For more information call 734-432-5731.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Conscious contact meets at 8:30 p.m. each Wednesday and Sunday at the Good First Step Table at the Garden City Hospital. Use the north entrance at 5254 Inkster road in Garden City. Call Woody at 734-776-3415.

SUESS ON LOOSE Science programs for four and five year olds will be offered from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays in January at the Leslie Science Center, 18131 Traver road in Ann Arbor. Cost is \$36 for non-residents for all four sessions. Pre-registration is needed so call 734-662-7802.

MOM'S CLUB OF WESTLAND will meet again at 10 a.m. Jan. 20 at a new location -- Brayman Lounge located in the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford road. The club's program is as a non-profit, non-religious support group for stay at home mothers. For more information call Stephanie at 734-266-2919.

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Farmington Hills Tuesday, January 12 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Longacre House 24705 Farmington Rd. (Between 10 Mile Rd. & 11 Mile Rd. on west side) (Refreshments will be served)	Dearborn Heights Thursday, January 14 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Canfield Community Center 1801 N. Beech Daly (Between Cherry Hill and Ford Rd.) (Refreshments will be served)
Westland Wednesday, January 13 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Melvin Bailey Recreation Center 36651 Ford Rd. (Between Newburgh and Wayne Rd. on south side) (Refreshments will be served)	Livonia Thursday, January 14 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Livonia Civic Center Library 32777 Five Mile Rd. (South side of 5 Mile Rd. & East of Farmington Rd.) (Refreshments will be served)

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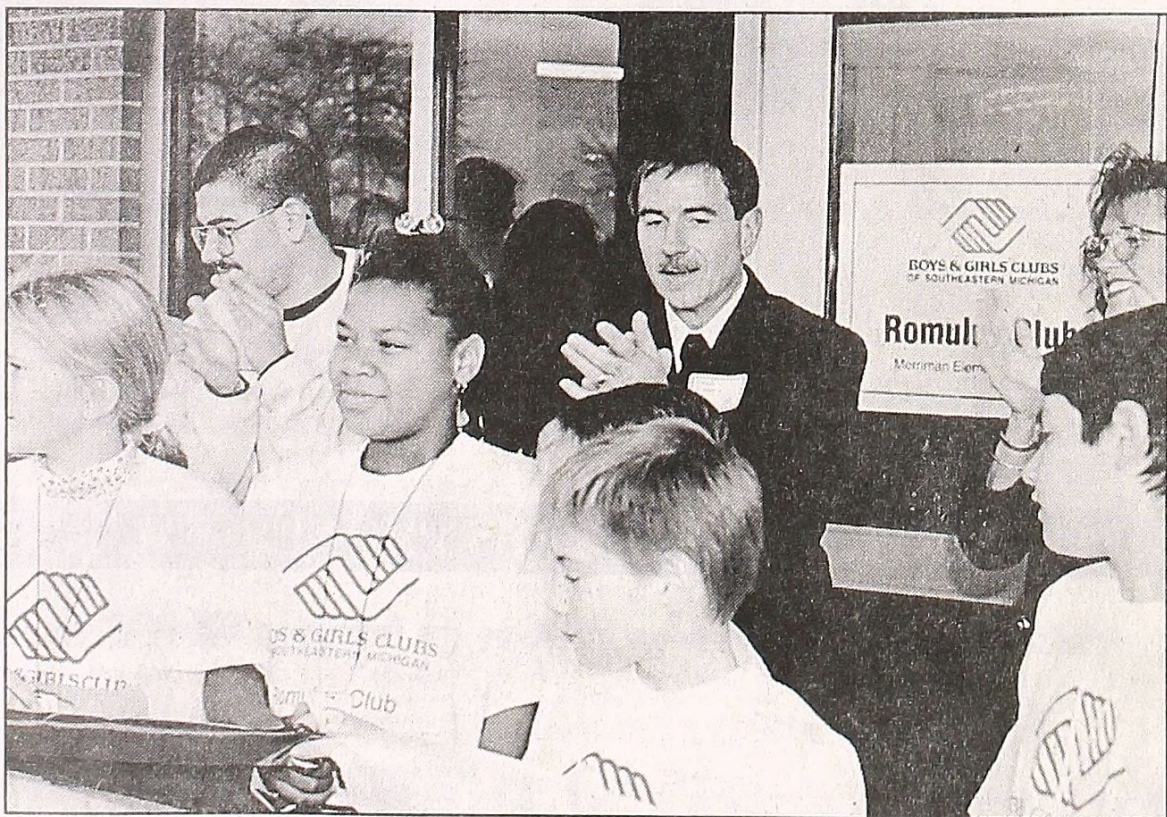
- Your estate will go through probate which could take months or even years, and probate fees could be substantial.

- If you're married and your estate is over \$650,000 net, without proper planning your family may owe federal estate taxes of 37%-55%.

- If you become incapacitated, or unable to sign documents, a court may assign a conservator to run your estate as the court sees fit.

Sponsored by: Law Office of Jeffrey R. Saunders. Attorney Jeffrey R. Saunders speaks to area residents about living trusts and proper estate planning. Mr. Saunders has practiced law for 10 years and his practice focuses on estate planning. He is a member of the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys - and his seminars on living trusts are said to be "informative & easy-to-understand."

Seating is Limited, So Call Becky at 800-954-1717 Now!
 (Phones open 24 hours-Say you want to make reservations for the living trust seminar)



Boys/Girls Club reopens

Frank Rigger (dark jacket), the first executive director of the Romulus Boys/Girls Club, greets city officials at the recent opening ceremonies at Merriman Elementary School. The club for area youth reopened Tuesday following the Christmas/New Years holiday period. MCN Special Photo

People you know

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

Bob Boyer has been elected president of the Canton Historical Society's Board of Trustees.

Boyer fills the position left vacant by the death early last year of Esther Sprengel.

Other positions will remain the same with Bonnie Berg, as vice president; David Curtis, secretary; and Charles Mott as treasurer.

The Canton Historical Society also elected four trustees including **David Curtis, Phyllis Patterson, Jeanne Seifert and Nancy Nelson.**

Three U.S. Naval officers -- **Petty Officer Third Class Joseph M. Miller of Canton, Navy Seaman Christopher S. Boulton and Navy Fireman Jason N. Hendrickson,** recently participated in Operation Desert Fox, while serving on U.S.S. Enterprise, currently deployed to the Mediterranean Sea and the Arabian gulf.

During the operation, U.S. forces launched attacks on military operations in Iraq, after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's refusal to allow United Nations teams to inspect Iraqi installations for weapons of mass destruction.

Miller is the son of Kenneth H. and Gloria J. Miller of Canton. He is a 1989 graduate of Plymouth-Canton High School and joined the U.S. Navy later that year.

Boulton is a 1996 graduate of John Glenn High School. He joined the U.S. Navy in August 1996.

Hendrickson is a 1995 graduate of Belleville High School. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1997.

Wayne-Westland School Superintendent **Gregory J. Baracy** will be discussing the state of local schools when he appears before the Westland Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 12.

The luncheon will take place at 11:30 a.m. at the Joy Manor.

Tickets for the outing cost \$13 and can be reserved by calling 326-7222.

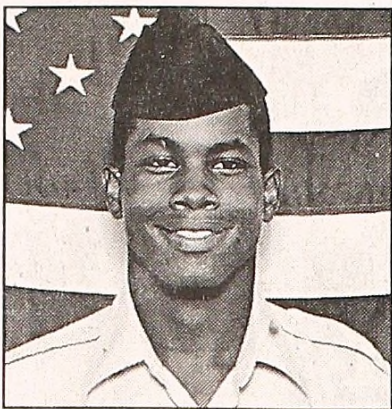
Baracy was raised in Wayne. He and his wife, Gabriele, both graduated from Wayne Memorial High School.

In 1974 he began as a high school teacher and later served on the college level. Baracy holds a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Michigan and a doctor's degree in curriculum and instruction from Wayne State University.

Robert Jones, host of WDET-FM 101.9 *Blues from the Lowlands*, will be singing blues and playing instruments as part of the "Rhythm Rising: Exploring America's Musical Roots" program during February's Black History Month at Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.

He will perform on Feb. 6, 13 and 14 at noon and 2 p.m.

Two area Air Force Airmen - **Alexander W. Schulz** of Belleville and **Joseph J. Williams** of Detroit - recently graduated



Joseph J. Williams



Alexander W. Schulz

from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Tex.

Schulz is the son of Pamela S. and Larry W. Schulz of Belleville. He is 1998 graduate of Belleville H.S.

Williams is the son of James Williams of Canton and Annette Cummings of Detroit. He is a 1998 graduate of Detroit Central H.S.

Beth A. Stump, manager of the McDonald's Restaurant local at Michigan avenue and Canton Center in Canton, has been awarded a bachelor of hamburgerology degree from McDonald Hamburger University.

All McDonald managers and other top restaurant officials are required to complete this course.

The restaurant's founder Ray Kroc stated "we take the hamburger business more seriously than anyone else. H.U. is a reflection of that commitment."

Local birth arrivals revealed

Lindsey Ann Croskey, daughter of Robert and Carrie Croskey of Westland, was born Nov. 26, 1998 in Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn.

She weighed seven pounds and nine ounces at birth and measured 23 inches.

Her grandparents include: Robert and Laurie Croskey of Roscommon and Norm and Lois Chambo of Holiday, Fla.

Craig Michael Rydzewski, son of Patricia and Michael Rydzewski of Romulus, was born Nov. 14, 1998 at Annapolis Center of Oakwood Hospital in Wayne.

He weighed seven pounds and 12 ounces at birth and has dark brown hair and blue eyes.

He joins two siblings at home: Matthew Adams and Kyle Rydzewski.

His grandparents include Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Rydzewski of Dearborn Heights and Mr. and Mrs. James Rydzewski of Taylor.

Summer Ray Collins, daughter of Krista and Bill Collins of Taylor, was born Dec. 5, 1998 at Annapolis Center of Oakwood Hospital in Wayne.

She weighed seven pounds and 13 ounces at birth and has black hair and grey eyes.

She joins five siblings at home: Kim, Rose, Blake, Billy and Morgan.

Her grandparents include: Bill and Donna Collins of Taylor and Jim and Pat Noblett of Romulus.

Naya R'Nay Larking, daughter of Ronald and Anita Larking of Inkster, was born Nov. 30, 1998 at Annapolis Center of Oakwood Hospital.

She weighed five pounds and seven ounces at birth and has black hair and brown eyes.

She joins five siblings at home: Dinita, Destineyk, Octavia, Tyuron and My-ron.

Her grandparents include: Mr. and Mrs. Fizer of Inkster, Mr. and Mrs. Larkins of Detroit and Mr. Buck of Westland.

Alexander David Slaby, son of Barbara Milliman and Dennis Slaby of Westland, was born Nov. 22, 1998 at Annapolis Center of Oakwood Hospital in Wayne.

He weighed seven pounds and 11 ounces at birth and has strawberry blonde hair and blue eyes.

His grandparents include: Rosella Milliman of Burr Oak and Stephanie Slaby of Grayling.

Preiaja Larchele Pope, child of Pamela Watson and Perry Pope of Inkster, was born Nov. 26, 1998 at Garden City Hospital.

The baby weighed six pounds and 11 ounces at birth and measured 20 inches.

The grandparents include: Flora Watson and BeBe Gee of Inkster.

Nicholas Lewis Avigne, son

of Janet J. Avigne of Inkster, was born Dec. 5, 1998 at Garden City Hospital.

He weighed five pounds and

15 ounces at birth and measured 19 inches.

His grandmother is Barbara Avigne of Inkster.

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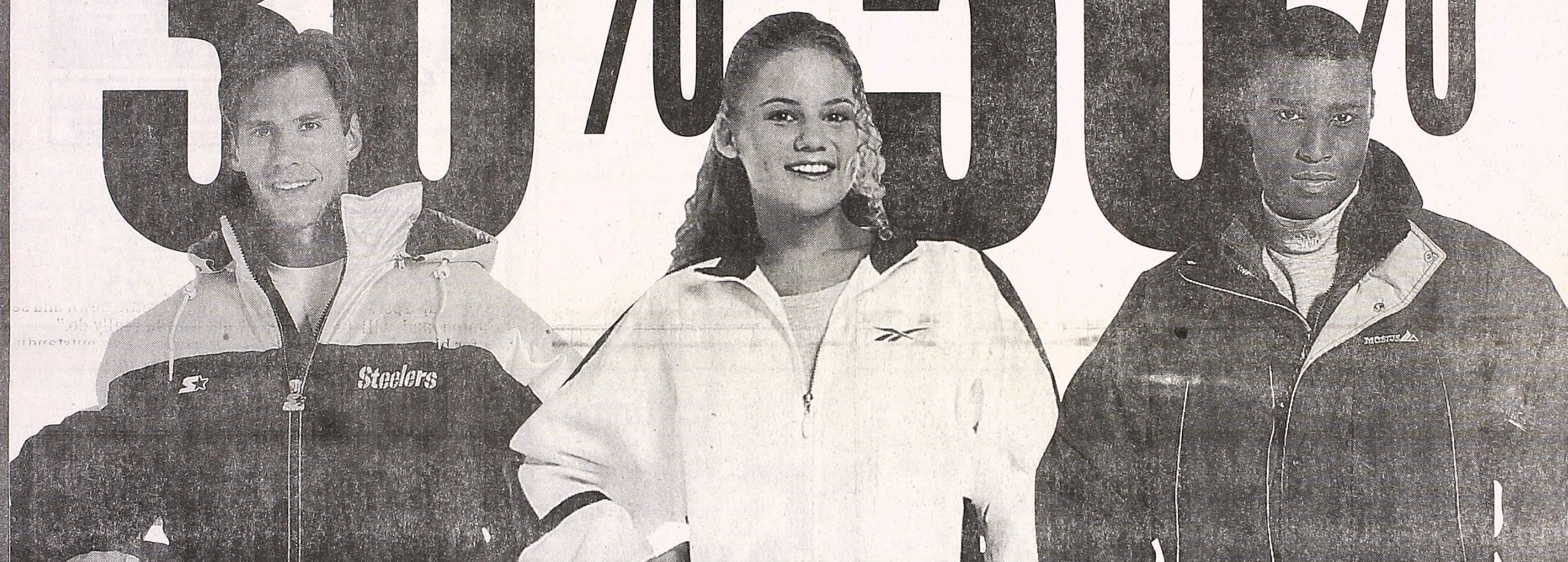
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SPORTS

Jan. 7, 1999

Page A-11

Preps storm into 1999 season

Wayne squares off with defending Class B state champ River Rouge

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

As residents dig out from an early winter storm that dumped more than a foot of snow and sleet on some communities, prep teams and athletes braced for the "second half" of their regular season.

Most local hoop teams were scheduled to play their first games of 1999 Tuesday night; some were cancelled because the facilities were closed due to the storm and drifting snow.

All teams and activities are scheduled to resume on Friday, if no more snow revisits

the area. On Monday and Tuesday, Wayne-Westland, Plymouth-Canton, Van Buren, Romulus, Inkster and Westwood Schools were closed.

School officials said that they were optimistic that the schools would be open on Wednesday, weather and roads permitting.

Tuesday night, Inkster was to pay a visit to arch-rival, Robichaud, for a crossover Mega Conference game, while undefeated Riverview, coached by former Glenn great, Steven Hawley, was scheduled to pay Wayne a visit in the first game between these two non-

Wayne was the only other local team involved in a holiday tournament.

conference teams in nearly two decades.

Glenn and coach Mike Schuette take on Ypsilanti for their inaugural contest of the new year, while Romulus visits Highland Park, which is coming off a victory in its own holi-

day classic over coach Hilton Graham's Vikings.

Wayne was the only other local team involved in a holiday tournament. The Zebras were invited to play in the annual Superintendent's Classic hosted by the Eddie Greene, the su-

perintendent of Detroit Public Schools.

"It was a good game for us. It gave us an opportunity to play in a big arena like the Cobo and it was more like a playoff game than anything else. Unfortunately we lost."

Wayne dropped a 58-42 decision to an undefeated Cass Tech team. The Technicians worked their way to a 12-point first-half (34-22) and never trailed in this one.

The good news is that Jamar Davis, a senior-co-captain who has been sidelined with a broken arm, returned to the lineup. Though hurting, Davis

managed to toss in 11 points and shared individual scoring honors with teammate, Nate Wade.

Here is the basketball schedule involving local teams for the rest of the week:

Friday, Jan. 8

Willow Run at Inkster
Wayne Memorial at Rouge
Walled Lake Western at John Glenn
Monroe at Romulus

Tuesday, Jan. 12

Harrison at John Glenn
Inkster at Romulus
Willow Run at Wayne Memorial



Fans - love them or hate them. They are part of the sports scene. Some believe they make the sports scene. They were there in victory and in defeat. And they will return, win or lose.

Top stories of 1998

Belleville's run in the state playoffs is No. 1

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

It was a fantastic year for local sports and sports fans.

And for Belleville High's boys basketball team, 1998 was an incredible year. The Tigers came within one victory of an impossible dream - winning the Class A state title.

And doing it after they had lost 13 games during the regular season. No team has ever reached the state finals after so many losses, until the 1998 Tigers accomplished the unbelievable feat.

Like magic, Coach Rod Fisher's Tigers turned a team with a 7-13 record before the playoffs began into a team that captured the hearts of Michigan's high school hoop fans, as time and time again, they came from behind to win at the

buzzer in their quest to win the coveted Class A state championship.

Belleville's "Cinderella Team" and the story generated by the magic is the Top Local Sports Story of 1998.

There were many other remarkable sports events that captured the attention of local fans and provided the headlines of 1998.

Two remarkable senior running backs - Freddie Russell and Reggie Spearmon - set standards that their predecessors may never equal during the football season. Both received All-State and All-America consideration.

The controversial departure of football coaching great Bob Yauck, who was sidelined by Westwood School District superintendent, Dr. Equilla Bradford, and the resignation of Romulus baseball coach Don

Foley, along with the return of Floyd Carter as head football coach at Wayne Memorial impacted the 1998 sports scene.

Also in the Top 10 stories of 1998 was the opening of Inkster Valley Golf Course, a first for the city of Inkster.

Belleville's girls' undefeated Mega Conference team, and Romulus's perfect Mega Gold Division football championship squad also deserve recognition among the newsworthy in 1998.

Rounding out the Top 10 is ex-Westland John Glenn's hoop star, Tony Goins's, bid to become the all-time scorer at Wayne State University.

Here are the summaries of those events that captured the local headlines during the 12 months of 1998.

No. 1 After a mediocre

7-13 regular season, Belleville, led by the Edwards cousins - John and Kevin - and junior guard C. J. Grantham staged an unbelievable run in the playoffs that saw Fisher's Tigers win district and regional titles before knocking off highly-favored Flint Northwestern in the semifinals, only a few days before beating Kalamazoo Loy-Norrix in the quarterfinals. Each of those victories were accomplished on "last-shot" baskets.

In the finals, the state's sentimental favorite, Belleville, ran up against 6-5 Dante Darling and 6-4 Antonio Gates who ended the Cinderella Team's dream of a state crown, 63-47.

"No one believed that we would be here. But these kids believed. I believed."

See **BEST**, page A-12

Match up with Ypsi to test Tigers in '99 hoop opener

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

With five games under their belt - and a possible sixth if Tuesday night's game against Taylor Kennedy was staged - Belleville and coach Rod Fisher will return to the Mega Conference Red Division hoop battles Friday night at Ypsilanti looking for some answers.

Though young and inexperienced, Ypsi's Braves are talented and will be a good test for his team, the Belleville coach stressed.

"They're young but they have a lot of talent over there," said Fisher on Monday. "This game may tell us a lot about our team."

Belleville was scheduled to open the new year Tuesday night at Taylor Kennedy. But because of Sunday's snow storm and subsequent announcements of school closings, it was not known at press time whether the game will be staged.

Belleville has come away with only two wins in its first five starts this season, and Fisher says he is still looking

"We have played some very good teams."
- Rod Fisher

for the combination that will carry the team the rest of the way.

"We have played some very good teams, and have made some mistakes that have been costly," Fisher added. "Now it's time to settle down and see what we can really do."

Fisher has two outstanding seniors in guards C. J. Grantham and John Edwards, holdovers from last year's team that finished second in the state to Detroit Central.

Kevin Harrison, a 6-1 forward, also an important link, and 6-0 senior Robert Miller have helped carry the bulk of the burden thus far. But the fifth starter is a toss up and Fisher is looking for someone to muscle his way into the lineup.

"We need others to step up their games so that we can remain competitive in this conference," the Belleville coach added.

Wayne Dolphins to launch swim season

While most in this area are thinking skiing and skating, thanks to the record-snow fall over the weekend, Wayne's Dolphins are looking forward to their winter swimming season with passion.

The Dolphins, an age-group swim club that is sponsored by the Wayne Parks and Recreation Department, will launch their season on Jan. 9.

But, before they dive into the waters, the Dolphins' coaching staff will hold tryouts that are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 8 at the Wayne Memorial Swimming Pool.

Wayne Memorial is located at 3001 Fourth Street, about two blocks east of Wayne Road.

Anyone who has a desire to begin or continue a competitive swimming program is encouraged to attend these sessions. No previous experience is necessary.

Workouts emphasize proper swimming technique.

The cost to sign up per swimmer is \$45; \$85 for two members of the same family and \$110 for three or more.

The Wayne Dolphins, launched by former Wayne Memorial swim coach and Hall of Famer Jim McPartlin, has been in operation since 1971. The club provides a low-cost swimming improvement program for students, ages 6 through 16, who reside in the Wayne-Westland Community School District attendance area.

Workouts emphasize proper swimming technique and practice of all competitive strokes.

For those who need further information, please contact Ken Raub at (734) 722-4831.

Canadian's national champ on ice in Wayne

Two-time National Canadian ice skating champ Karen Preston will be performing later this month in the city of Wayne.

Preston, who is a three-time World Team member and a 1992 Olympian, will participate in the Wayne Winterfest which will take place on Jan. 29 till Jan. 31 at the Wayne

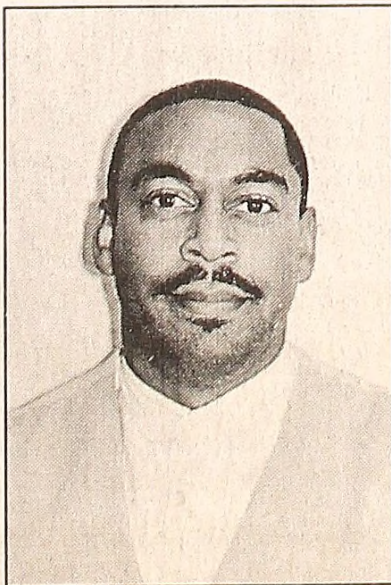
Community Center.

The special appearance by Preston is scheduled for 7 p.m. Jan. 29 at the Wayne Ice Rink.

For more information about the 1999 Wayne Winterfest and the ice skating performance, please contact Keith Alexander at the Community Center. Alexander may be reached by dialing 734-721-7400.



Bob Yauck



Mark Woodson



Floyd Carter



Dan Foley

Best

Continued from page A-11

And the fans believed. And I guess that is about all that counts," Fisher would say after the championship game.

No.2 The abrupt departure from the sidelines by Michigan Hall of Fame Football Coach Bob Yauck rocked the football community in the Fall as Superintendent of Westwood Schools Dr. Bradford refused to allow Yauck to coach because "he (Yauck) said that last year (1997) would be his last."

Yauck, who has coached such greats as ex-University of Michigan record-setting running back Tyrone Wheatley and Tyja Armstrong during his 28-year tenure at Robichaud High was replaced as head coach by his son, Bob Yauck, Jr. Yauck remains at the high school as principal and has questioned the administration's decision not to allow him to coach because other school districts have permitted principals to wear "two hats".

No.3-No.4 Definitely a tie between two outstanding running backs who had phenomenal careers.

In leading Westland John

Glenn to an 8-2 overall record, Spearmon finished with a score of Rocket Records, including Most TDs (24); Most Career TDs (48); Most Points in a Season (146); Most Points Career (294); Rushing Attempts in a Season (257); Rushing Attempts - Career (684); Yards Rushing - Season (1664); and Yards Rushing Career (4053).

Incidentally, the 18-year-old Spearmon's record-setting career eclipsed the achievements of former John Glenn great, Tony Boles, who had gained 1,526 yards in his senior year (1985) and had amassed 3,139 yards during his three years at Glenn.

Spearmon said of the former great that he had based his game on Boles' game. "He ran hard, and I try to run hard every play," said Spearmon.

Definitely that also would describe what Romulus senior running back Freddie Russell did when he had the ball in his hands. Russell lifted the Eagles to their first-ever conference football title and their second-ever appearance in a playoff game. (Romulus lost a controversial 41-40 decision to host Lansing Haslett in the regional championship game).

The 5-9, 182-pound



The music came through loud and clear when the marching bands took to the field. And they played for the hometown fans and the visiting guests - part of a ritual that makes for memories - the music was for all to enjoy. Though the sounds and the memories of 1998 season may soon fade, some players and teams will remain in our minds and thoughts down through the years. That's what traditions are all about.

Russell, who has announced that he would like to further his career at the University of Michigan, rushed for a record-breaking 2,470 yards on 239 carries and scored a record-shattering 44 touchdowns, which ties the state record. In a playoff game against a highly-touted Sturgis, Russell rushed for a phenomenal 350 yards and scored six touchdowns. He accomplished this by playing less than three quarters.

"Some coaches just dream about coaching a player with Freddie's talents," said Romulus coach Mark Woodson. "My dream came true. I was very fortunate to have him on our team."

No. 5 The return of Michigan Hall of Fame football coach Floyd Carter as head coach at Wayne Memorial and the departure of Chuck Howton from the Wayne coaching ranks.

Both moves surprised local fans.

Carter, like Howton, is a Wayne alumnus. He coached at the high school for more than a decade during the early 1980s before accepting a coaching position with the Crestwood School District. Both coaches are hometown heroes who were outstanding in their own right as athletes.

Howton's greatest success was with his 1992 team that made it to the state playoffs. Carter's Zebras started off strong with a pair of victories, then injuries hit, took their toll and the team struggled the rest of the way.

No.6 One football team didn't struggle this year thanks, to Mark Woodson, who has turned around the football program at Romulus High. In 1998, Woodson had an untarnished Mega Conference, Gold Division record and an unprecedented 11-1 overall record. The Eagles reached the Class B regional championship game where Romulus lost a nail-biter in OT to Haslett.

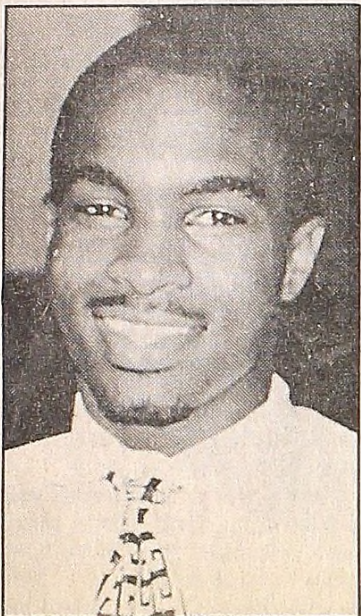
Woodson was named by *The Michigan Community Newspapers'* sports staff as its Coach of the Year, an honor bestowed upon him for the second consecutive year.

In the **No. 7** spot of the top newsmakers in 1998 was Belleville's girls' basketball team. First-year Tiger coach Kevin Edwards had a sensational basketball season as the Tigers posted an incredible 23-2 record which included their first-ever conference, second district and first regional championship teams. Belleville was ousted at the state quarterfinals.

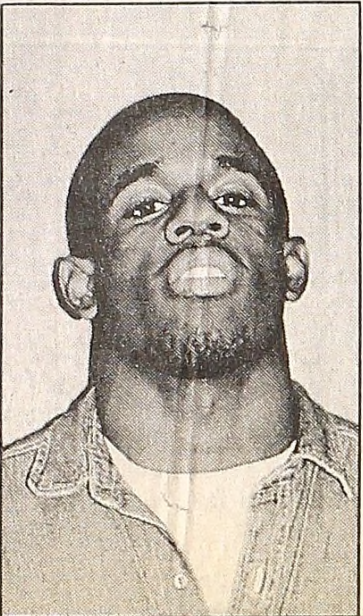
No. 8 belongs to ex-John Glenn hoop star, Tony Goins. Goins ended the year with 1,482 career points and needs only 131 more to become Wayne State University's all-time leading scorer. The record is currently held by Bob Solomon. Solomon finished his career as a Tartar with 1,612, a record he established during the 1970-73 seasons.

No. 9 was awarded to the Inkster Valley Golf Course, an 18-hole course that gives western Wayne County another recreational gem. The multi-million dollar complex was built by Wayne County and completed last spring. Inkster Valley opened its doors on Middlebelt Road, just north of Michigan Ave., to the public in April to the raves and applause of city and county officials.

Rounding out the **Top 10** is the controversial (according to staffers) and unprecedented and an alleged raid by a North Carolina high school upon local talent. Glenn's future hoop star, **Yaku Moton**, a 6-8 junior left Glenn to attend Mt. Zion High School, an apparently subsidized high school that reportedly has a record of convincing young ball players that their futures would be better served if they enrolled at the North Carolina high school.



Reggie Spearmon



Freddie Russell

Spring soccer sign-up

Though spring is only a dream for most, the city of Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department is thinking about warmer weather and its Spring Youth Soccer Program.

Officials announced that they are accepting registration during the month of January at the Recreation Office.

Prospective players may sign up during business hours, 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The recreation department is located in the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street.

All registrations require a birth certificate. The fee for 6,7, & 8 year olds is \$40 for residents and \$60 for non-residents.

For nine and above participants, the registration fee is \$45 for residents and \$74 for non-residents.

For further information, contact the recreation offices at 734-455- 6620.

Free T'ai Chi demo

The Wayne Senior Activity Center will be offering a free demonstration on a no impact exercise program known as - T'ai Chi - at 11 a.m. Jan. 5.

Bob Correll, a T'ai Chi instructor, will present the hour long demonstration.

T'ai Chi helps build balance and strength without the soreness or discomfort caused by more routine exercise programs and is highly recommended for senior citizens.

Following that a 10 week program will be offered at 11 a.m. each Tuesday beginning on Jan. 12. The cost will be \$4 per session.

Anyone with questions on the classes should call 721-7460.

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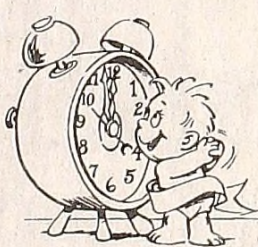


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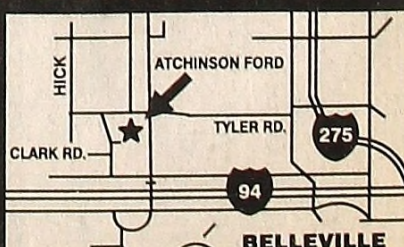
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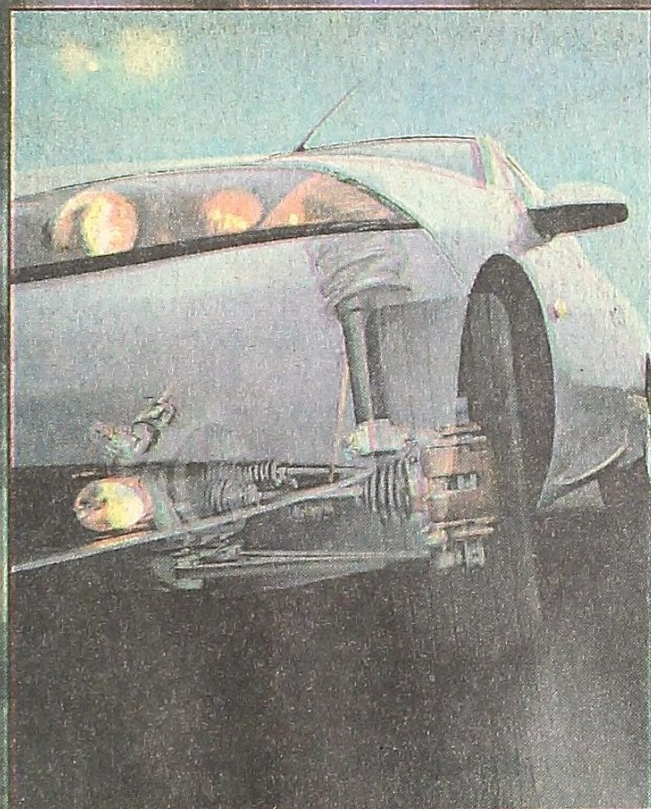
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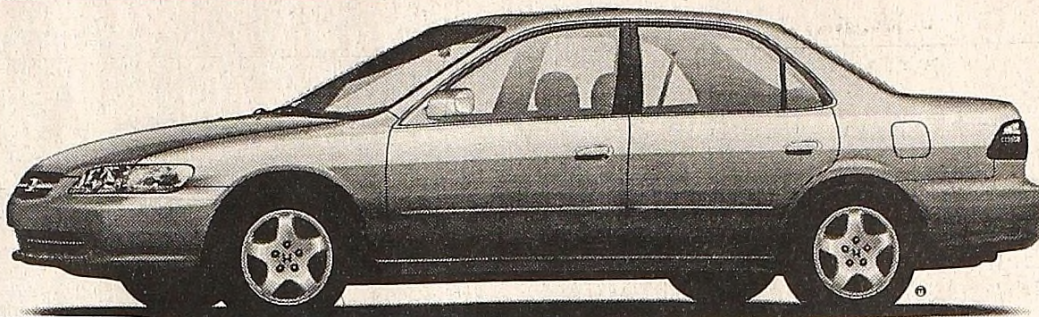
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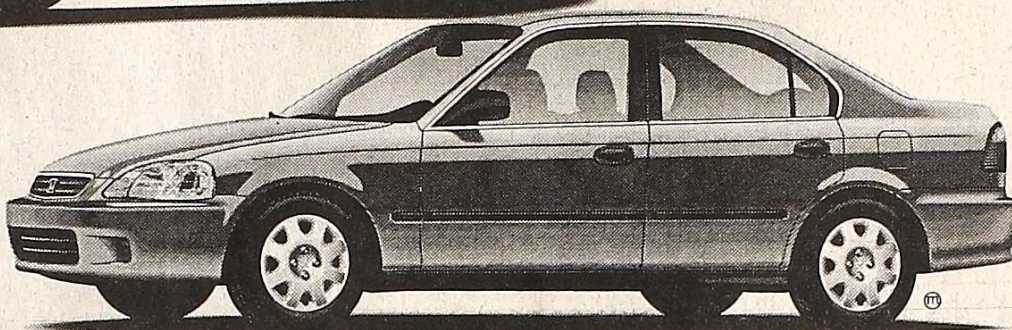
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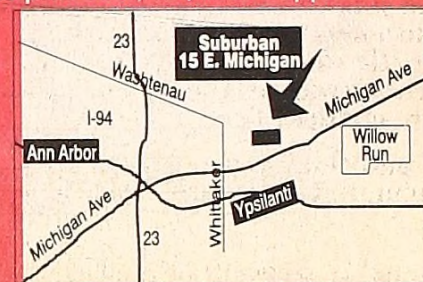


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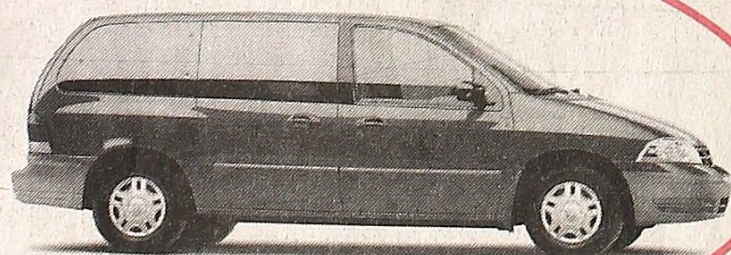
1999 TAURUS



1999 EXPLORER



1999 WINDSTAR



1999 RANGER

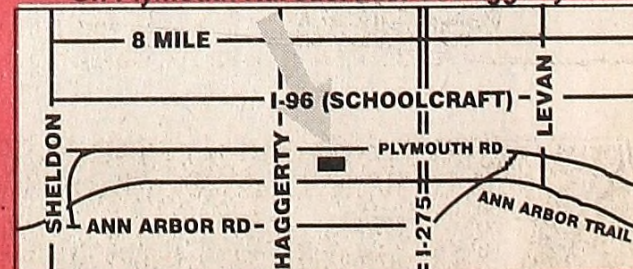


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'European Car of Year' to be built at Wayne Ford Plant

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

The brand new Ford Focus featuring three distinct body styles -- and already voted Europe's Car of the Year for 1999 -- will be built at the Ford Assembly Plant in Wayne beginning this summer.

The lightweight, high-efficiency 2.0 liter 16 valve DOHC Zetec I-4 engine vehicle displayed at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit raises the "standard of what a small car should be with new levels of roominess, comfort, driving dynamics and safety, Ford officials state.

"Ford Focus is a fresh example of a car designed around people -- with a spacious interior that reflects the increasing average height of the American population today," says Richard Parry-Jones, Ford's group vice president of worldwide product development.

The three bodystyles include:

- a sporty three-door featuring bold and unique curving arcs created by the roofline and high-mounted taillamps, which were designed for safety and reduced repair costs.

- a four-door sedan that combines a progressive front-end, deep luggage compartment in the rear and comprehensive safety system.

- a wagon that demonstrates an optional versatility defined by extended rear side-windows and full-width tailgate -- which, at 37.5 cubic feet, provides the largest load area in its class.

The Ford Focus also provides a highly rigid, yet lightweight platform architecture, and includes next generation low-friction steering and front suspension with fully independent rear suspension.

In addition, power racks and pinion steering are standard.

Focus is powered by a choice of two 2.0 liter engines and a choice of manual or an

Ford Focus is a fresh example of a car designed around people -- with a spacious interior that reflects the increasing average height of the American population today.

- Richard Parry-Jones

all-new electronically controlled automatic transmission.

Environmentally the Ford Focus will meet low emission vehicle requirements, which exceed U.S. Federal emission requirements.

Besides offering excellent fuel economy and low emission levels, the car's lubrication oils, coolants and other fluids were chosen with the environment in mind.

Some of the other features in the Ford Focus include:

- the most spacious interior in its class -- with room to seat five adults comfortably.

- more legroom in both the front and rear than its competition.

- driver and passenger airbags as well as available head and chest side air bags.

- ISOFIX child-safety seat attachments in the rear -- one of the first small cars to offer them.

- a battery saver -- which automatically switches off lights left on after 10 minutes.

Ford Focus also was named car of the year in Denmark, Scotland, Ireland, Sweden and Estonia.



Ford Focus Wagon



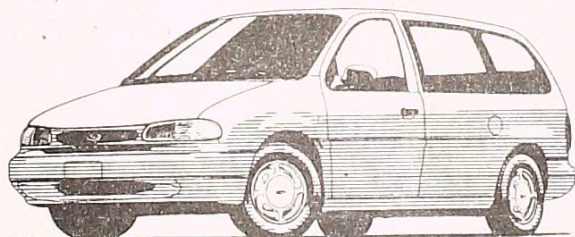
Ford Focus Sedan

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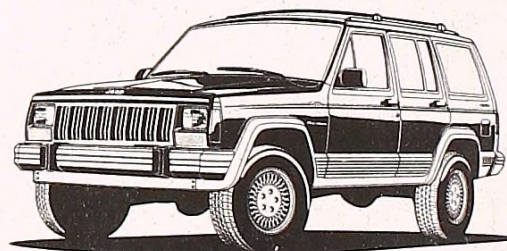
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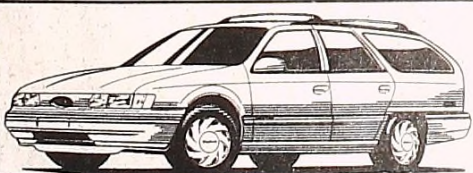
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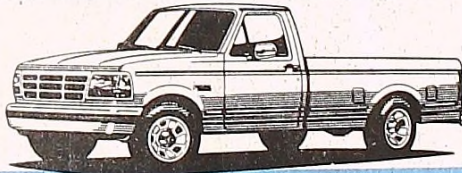
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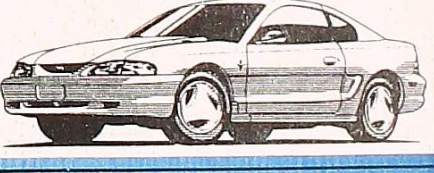
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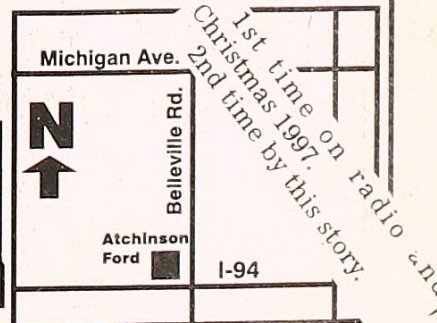


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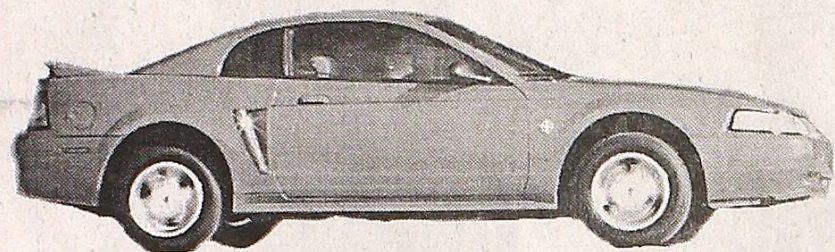
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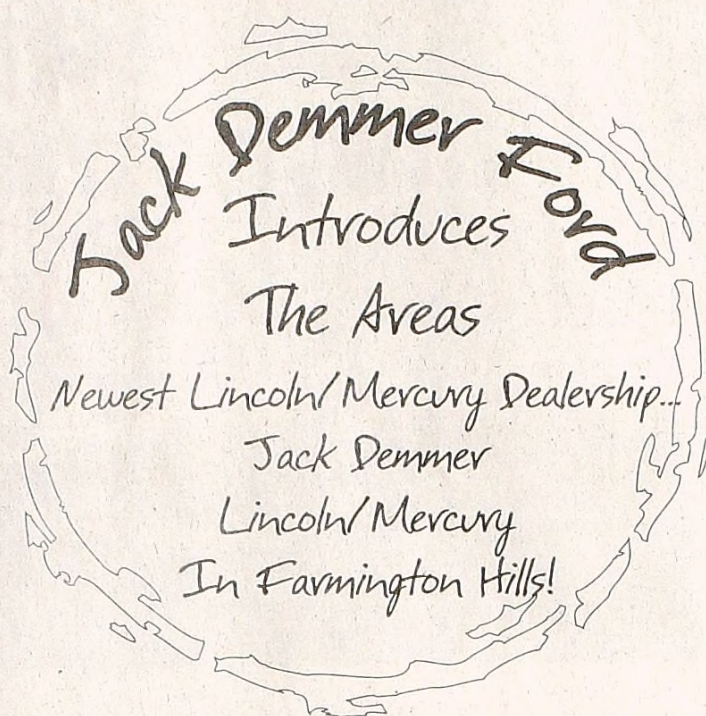


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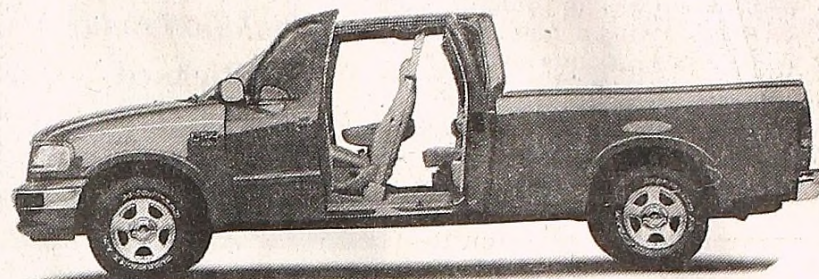
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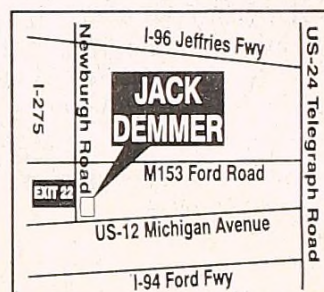
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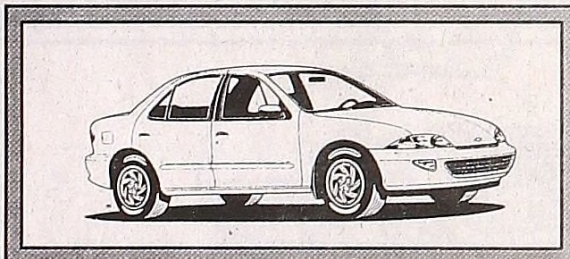
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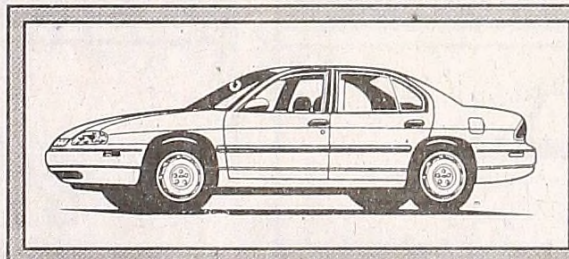


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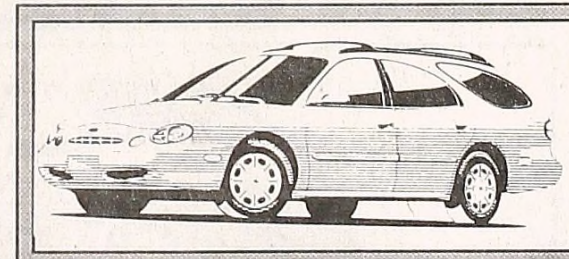
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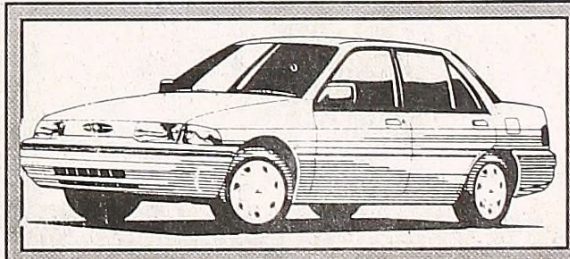
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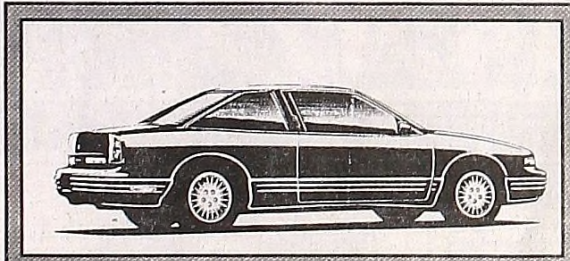
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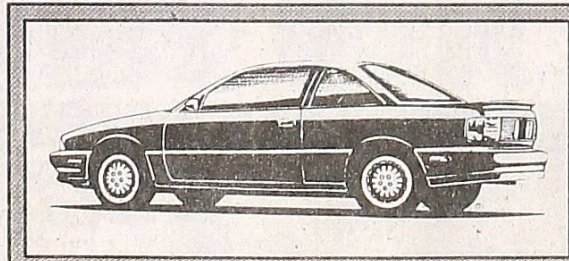
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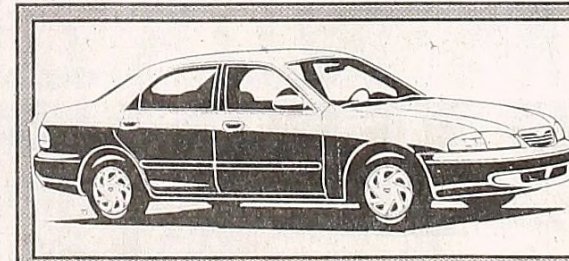
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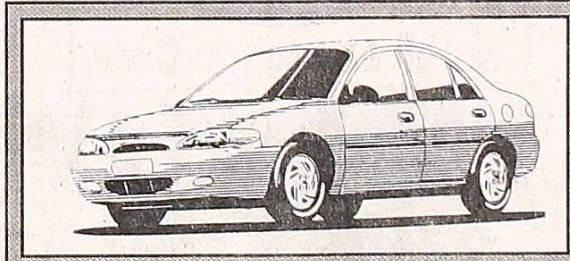
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1999

Truck of the Year

1999 Jeep Grand Cherokee



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1999

Car of the Year

The new Beetle



Some are calling it retro, some call it nostalgic. But the New Beetle is a real car, with real improvements over the 1964 original, and will certainly attract a following based purely on its own merits-- nostalgic or not. Its interior is roomier than its mother's and it also beats her in acceleration--by about 20 seconds, yielding a 0-60 mph time of 9.7 seconds. The new Beetle is also safer, boasting 21st-century levels of crashworthiness despite its 60s design shape. Its rear hatch reveals 10.3 cubic feet of luggage space, and its full-size spare hides comfortably under the floorboard. It's quieter, handles better and offers more comfort than the original, while maintaining all its fashion and loveability.

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Includes GM employee discount.

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And Get
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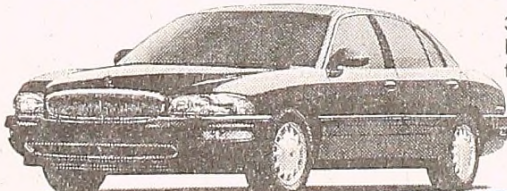
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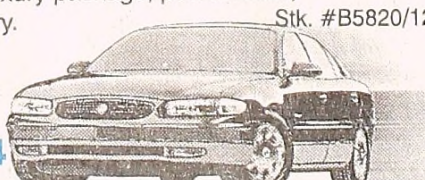
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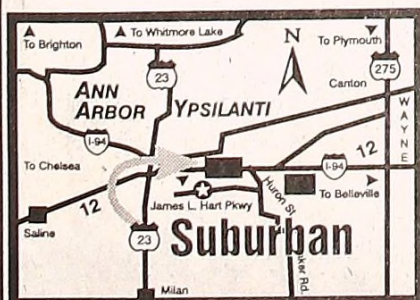
8 passenger, power windows/locks, stereo CD and cassette, keyless entry, V-6 power, and more!

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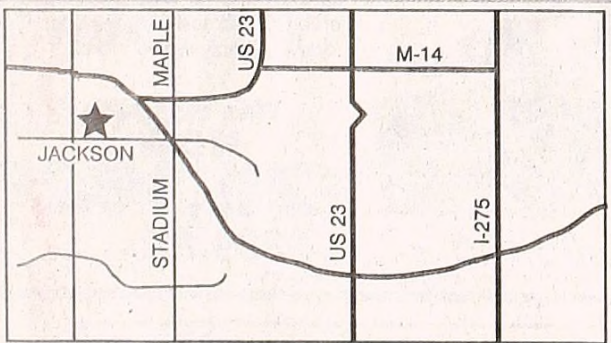
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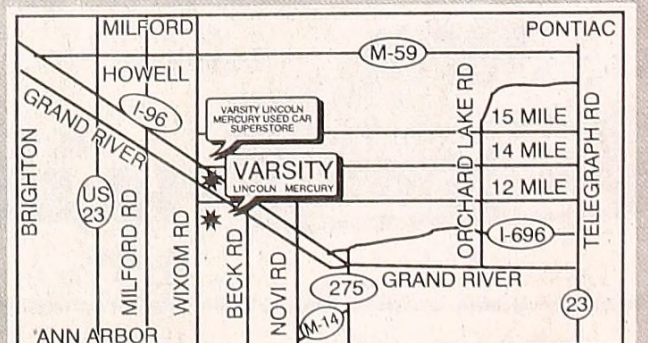
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Corvette sets high standard

By KAREN BEROFF
MCN Special Writer

I can't tell you how many people peered in the car as I was driving.

This auto writer is one "Happy Camper." Sell my clothes I'm going to Heaven! Wow, what a fine piece of machinery. I just had the opportunity to test drive what I would consider one of the best sports cars on the market today. It's sleek, it's sexy, it's fast, and it has a very comfortable ride.

I'm sure by now that you are wondering just what car I am speaking of. Well, it is the 1999 Chevrolet Corvette. And let me tell you, this one runs like a scalded dog. Zero to 60 with just a touch of the toe in 4.7 seconds. Needless to say, merging on the highway or taking off from a light is not a concern.

Driving the Corvette was positively relaxing after piloting some of the other so-called sports cars that I have tested in the past months. With the Z51 competition suspension package, the vette' set a very high standard in the driving experience. It was an all-day, high-velocity traveling rush that kept going for a full week!

Excellent control and in-

strument marking and placement make the car's operation instantly familiar, even at night. Every electronic bell and whistle are geared towards the driver. Even the ash-tray was set in on a slant. This way you didn't even have to take your eyes off the road to extinguish a smoke. And the seating is surprisingly soft and supple, while still proving optimal support for hours of corner-bending. I felt as if I were sitting in a Lazy-Boy recliner.

On the highway, the 345 horsepower LS1 V-8 moved along quietly in sixth gear at 1500 rpm's and 70 mph. That provided low interior noise levels as well as fuel economy in the 22-23 miles per gallon range.

This car is quite a looker, I can't tell you how many people peered in the car as I was driving, some even said "wow, you have a great car!" It was black

in color and as sleek as a form-fitting dress on an hourglass figure.

Ultimately, there are faster performance vehicles out there on the market today. And there are most certainly more expensive performance cars, but the C5 Corvette is one of the world's greatest sports cars. Not just because its steering, braking, and power train don't overtax driver skills, but because Chevy enhances those skills with crisp predictable responses and all speeds and in virtually all weather conditions.

This is one romp-in-stompin ass-kickin pavement eatin machine! This was by far the most fun I have had test driving an automobile. Everything about it was awesome. It even had a gauge on the instrument panel that let me know that my right rear tire was low. It there anything with this car that Chevy forgot to include? Not!

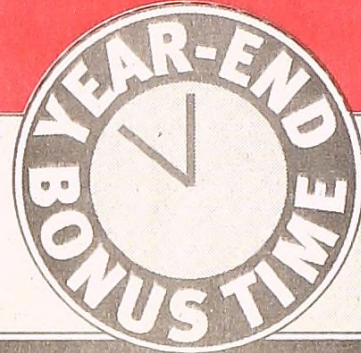
The stereo was great, the handling was great, the looks were superb, the speed was out of this world, comfort was wonderful, and besides all of that, priced under \$40 grand, it's a screaming bargain.



1999 Chevrolet Corvette

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Show stoppers: Local auto dealers' show picks

The auto industry is tingling with anticipation of the 1999 North American International Auto Show. So, MCN asked our favorite local experts what all the buzz is about. With their automotive expertise and steady flow of customer input, these representatives from local auto dealerships certainly proved they have their fingers on the pulse of what the industry has to offer and what their customers want. Here's what they said:

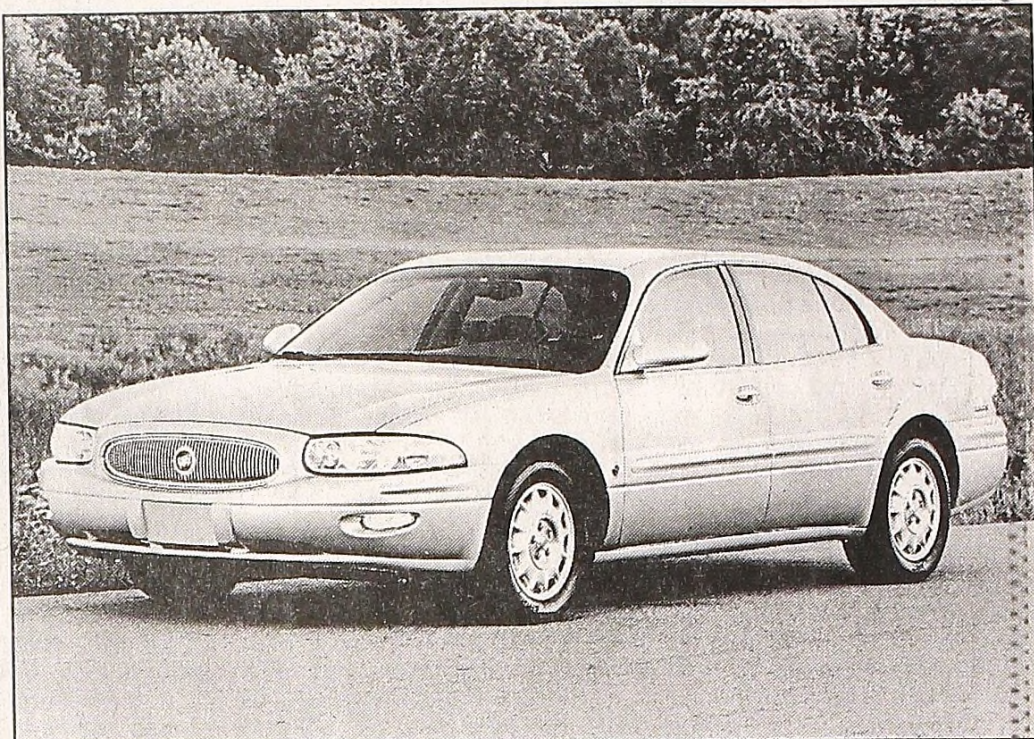
New T-Bird

Dennis Ericson, sales manager, Village Ford, Dearborn, said the New Thunderbird will steal the show. "It's totally new and redesigned," he said of the car's retro style. "And I heard it's a two-seater. It's going to be the main focus of everyone's attention."

John Sineveck, Jack Demmer Ford, Wayne, agreed, "It's supposed to be like a modernized version of the 1957 Thunderbird."



Jeff Russell, sales manager, Briarwood Ford, Ypsilanti, said he's going to be all over at the show. "I always like to see the Ford display, but I like to check out the competition and see how they stack up." He said he looks forward to checking out concept cars, but is most excited about the new Mustang display. "It has an all-new body on it and it should cause a lot of excitement," Russell said. And, as usual, he is looking forward to Ford's sense of style and showmanship. "I heard the Ford display is going to be phenomenal," he said.



The 1999 LeSabre will be the car of the show, said Nick Wang, Suburban Pontiac Buick, Ypsilanti. "It's all new," he said. "It's based on the G-chassis, which makes it more stable and with less vibration than anything Buick has ever built." Wang said he expects people to be attracted to the LeSabre because of its similarity to luxury cars such as the Park Avenue, while the price compares to the mid-range of new family cars.

Impala makes comeback

Keith Lange, sales manager, Tennyson Chevrolet Geo, Livonia, can't wait to see the 2000 Impala. "It's going to be hot, new and exciting," Lange said of the new and improved version of one of Chevy's top sellers, which will this year come out of a very short retirement.

Impala came in several styles: a four-door sedan, a family station wagon, a large convertible and an SS Coupe which featured a big-block V8 and four-on-the-floor. Chevrolet retired the nameplate in 1996, after selling 13 million of the popular cars.

The 2000 Impala will make its worldwide debut at the NAIAS.



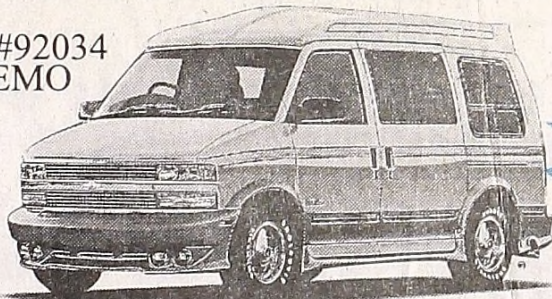
The Isuzu VehiCROSS is Ron Carroll's bet for the most interesting car at the show. The sales manager from John Rogin Buick Isuzu Suzuki, Wayne, said, "You would think it's a concept vehicle, but it's an actual production vehicle." He said the rear-mounted spare adds to the sleek space-age design and customers are equally excited about the big V-6, which is sure to afford this SUV plenty of power.



The all-new Silverado pickup is sure to draw plenty of attention at the auto show. "It's bigger, faster, smarter and more durable," said Tennyson Chevrolet Geo sales manager Keith Lange. "With its all new design, it's hands above anything else in the industry."

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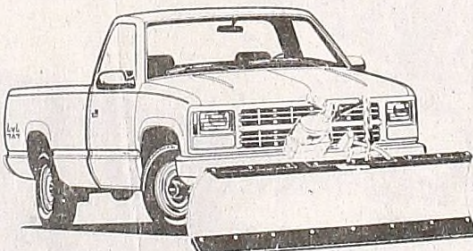
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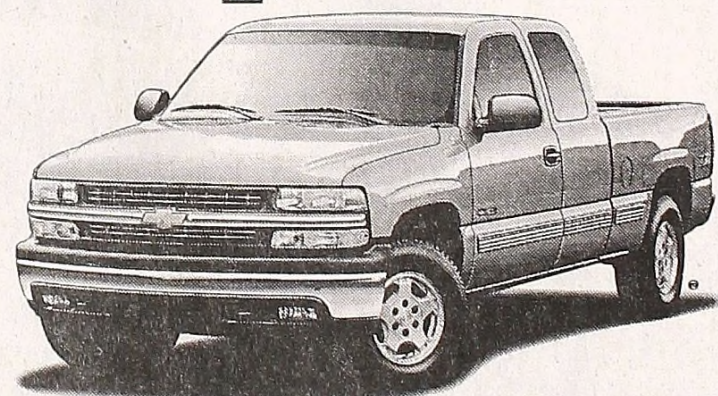
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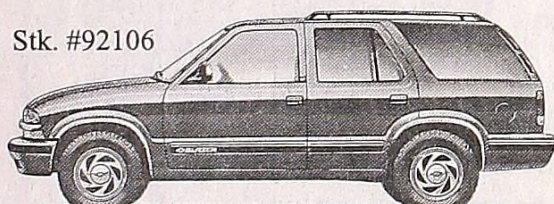
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VISIT US AT THE AUTO SHOW.

Yukon Denali: Wow! What a truck



1999 Yukon Denali

By KAREN BEROFF
MCN Special Writer

Never lacking interior space or V8 power, this dynamic duo from GMC offers the best of both worlds gobbling up interstates for breakfast, pulling ski boats for lunch, and taking you to the theater in the evening. If you have not guessed by now, I am talking about the 1999, just off the line, Yukon Denali.

Wow, what a truck! Or should I say sport-ute? Whatever you want to call it, this vehicle can do everything but cook you lunch. There will always be a need for large capacity, high towing, four-wheel drive romping stomping pavement eating trucks/utes.

This Yukon has been refined for what America drives for a very good reason. They can do it all. Whether you live in the Sunbelt and need a vehicle to haul your surfboard and fellow surfers to the beach, or

if you live in a place there's snow on the ground most of the year and you simply have to get the kids to school, this versatile utility fits the bill.

Some people like four-wheeling, some people just like a comfortable ride in which offers plenty of space, with this one, you can have it all. The Denali is a newcomer, and deserves a second look. Civilized and sporty, this V8 brings a potent combination of brisk acceleration and a smooth ride. Road noise was at a minimum. Supportive bucket seats, (that reminded me of a La-Z-Boy) well-placed controls, enough room for five in comfort and cavernous cargo space added to the driving experience.

The GMC Denali comes equipped with a 255 horsepower, vortec 5700, V8 engine that has no problem taking off at a dead stop or merging in traffic. A pushed button engages four-wheel drive, readying the Denali for off-road excursions. I

did try a little bit of off-roading, and it proved to be a great experience. This one handled it without any problems. I never found myself in a compromising situation.

The stereo in the Denali was awesome. It came equipped with a Bose system, which kicked out the sound at high levels with no distortion whatsoever. Not only do you have a single compact disc player in the dash, you also have a six compact disc player in the center console so you do not have to worry about changing cd's while driving. This allows you to keep your eyes on the road at all times. Speaking of keeping your eyes on the road, the view out of this vehicle is great, you sit up so high that you can see everything around you. And blind spots, forget about it! There are none. All the way around not a problem with vision.

As I touched on earlier, seating is not only comfortable, it is also very sporty. The two-tone leather interior gives

it style and class. And the Denali emblems that are embossed on the drivers and front passengers inside doors give it that added touch. Not to mention the six way power seats for driver and front passenger. Several auxiliary power outlets are available in this model. Cup holders are also at a premium. I counted at least six.

I don't know what else I can tell you, except I consider this GMC to be on the high end of the sport-ute market. Although, basically, this one comes with most everything standard, it still is over \$40,000 and the only deterrent is naturally the gas mileage, about 12 miles per gallon in the city and 16 on the highway. My test vehicle came with all of the bells and whistles and was \$42,855. Which I consider to be pricey. However, if you are looking for it all, choose this one it has style, comfort and class. Put this one through the paces. YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED!

All new at NAIAS

The all-new concept and production vehicles that will be introduced at the NAIAS are sure to be the stars of the show. Here's a list of what you can expect to see:

- Production Vehicles**
- Worldwide**
- BMW X5 sport activity vehicle
 - 2000 Chevrolet Impala
 - Nissan Xterra
 - 2000 Dodge/Plymouth Neon
- North American**
- Audi TT
 - Ford Focus
 - Jaguar S-Type
 - Mercedes-Benz S-Class
 - Volkswagen Cabrio
 - Volkswagen Golf
 - Volkswagen Jetta
- Concept Vehicles**
- Worldwide:**
- Cadillac Evoq
 - Chrysler concept 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
 - GM SPO Bass Pursuit
 - Mitsubishi Mad Max
 - Nissan Z
 - Nissand SUT
 - Buick concept
 - Chevrolet concept
 - Oldsmobile concept
 - Pontiac concept 1 and 2
- North American**
- Jaguar

Public show hours & tickets

Show Dates: Saturday, January 9 - Monday, January 18

Location: Cobo Center, Detroit

Show Hours: Saturday, Jan. 9 - Sunday, Jan. 17: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (No admittance after 9 p.m.)

Monday, Jan. 18: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (No admittance after 6 p.m.)

Ticket Prices: Adult, \$9; Senior (65 and older), \$4; Children 12 and under, free when accompanied by a parent.

Special access for persons with a disability is one hour earlier. General admission tickets are available at Cobo Center during show hours, and through Ticketmaster outlets. To charge by phone, call: Detroit (248) 645-6666; Windsor (519) 792-2222.

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Michigan Hall

Bentley, Daimler-Chrysler, Motorsports, Ford Racing, GM concept: Cure, GM Parts and Accessories, Karmann, Kia, Lamborghini, Rolls-Royce, UAW Chrysler, UAW Ford, Volkswagen

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\$499 due at signing

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Vortec 4300 V6, air cond., AM/FM Cd, remote entry. #T9072

MSRP: \$20,995

GM Employees **\$18,346***

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